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Police kill two car thieves from territories Another suspect arrested after chase in Pardess Hanna area

DAVID RUDGE

POLICE shot and killed two suspected car thieves from the territories yesterday in Pardess Hanna, after one tried to run over a policeman and the second drew a gun.

A third suspect was later caught, after he had tried to steal another car.

A Civil Guard officer was lightly injured in one of the incidents and was admitted to Hillel Yaffe Hospital in Hadera.

Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz praised the courage and quick thinking of the police officers involved in the case.

He noted that initial inquiries had shown that the officers were justified in shooting at the suspects, in view of the suspects' behavior.

"We are talking about a gang of car thieves that we have been seeking for a long time," Hefetz told reporters yesterday. "These are car thieves that have no qualms about attacking police officers and the extent of this phenomenon had gotten very serious."

He stressed, however, that car thefts were on the rise, and that not just Arabs, but Jews, were heavily involved in stealing cars and disposing of them.

Police believe the suspects who were shot were part of a gang of thieves stealing cars and taking them to the territories, where they were dismantled for their parts.

The possibility that some of the stolen vehicles might have been handed over to terrorists for use in attacks is also being investigated.

"It's very unusual to find car thieves carrying weapons," said police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen.

One of the suspects who was killed was wanted by police in connection with burglaries and car thefts, and had been banned from crossing the Green Line into Israel.

He was identified as Salah Mahadawi, 20, from the village of Shweikh, near Nablus. The other suspect killed in the incident was Sakr Kapani, aged 24, of Nazaleh Sharkeyeh, near Tulkarm.

The drama actually began several weeks ago following a spate of break-ins at homes in the Hadera and Pardess Hanna region. In virtually all of the cases, the thieves stole car keys and other property and drove away in the vehicles of the households.

In one such incident two weeks ago, police chased three suspects,

one of whom was caught. He is believed to have been connected with those involved in yesterday's incident.

As a result of these earlier incidents, special police patrols and checkpoints were established in the Pardess Hanna and Hadera areas.

Haifa police spokeswoman Supt. Sarina Yehuda said that around 3:20 yesterday morning, police were informed that two cars had been stolen from outside a home in Pardess Hanna.

One of the vehicles, approached a police roadblock and tried to run down Civil Guard volunteer Tal Cohen.

He was struck in the leg by the vehicle while being pulled clear by Sgt. Danny Markovitz, but managed to fire two shots at the vehicle.

The shots apparently fatally wounded the driver and the car crashed several hundred meters down the road. The passenger inside got out and fled.

Meanwhile detectives stopped the other suspected stolen vehicle nearby. Yehuda said the driver pulled out a pistol and shouted at the police officer that he was from Gaza. The detective, Tamir Sha'ar, pulled his pistol and shot first, fatally wounding the suspect, who later died in the Hillel Yaffe hospital.

Both cars had been stolen from outside the home of the Izokovitz family in Pardess Hanna, along with other property, including a television and video equipment. One car belonged to the family and the other to friends visiting from the Negev.

Yehuda said that the third suspect, who had fled from the crashed Subaru, leaving Salah Mahadawi dead at the wheel, managed to reach nearby Karkur village.

There, he broke into the home of the Aharoni family, stole the keys of their car and was trying to drive away when a member of the family jumped on the car and the suspect lost control, crashing the car into an electricity pole. Members of the family subdued the suspect and held him until police arrived.

Yehuda said the third suspect, aged 35, was also a resident of Nazaleh Sharkeyeh. He was arrested and was being questioned about the various aspects of the case.

Item contributed to this report.



Actress Jane Fonda addresses the UN Population Conference in Cairo yesterday. (Reuters)

Vatican delays accord at UN population parley

CAIRO (Reuters) - A UN population conference deferred the vexed issue of abortion yesterday but the debate remained firmly on the agenda after the Vatican reiterated the hardline Catholic stance blocking the latest compromise.

Archbishop Renato Martino, the Holy See's envoy to the United Nations, put to rest any hopes that the Vatican would water down its objections to a proposed draft on abortion and heed a US plea not to hold up agreement.

"The Church's position on responsible parenthood is well known, even though at times it is misunderstood," he told the conference in a speech. "Some here might consider it too demanding for today's man and woman. But no way of fostering the deepest respect for human life and the process of its transmission is going to be an easy one. Responsibility brings burdens. Responsibility demands discipline and self-restraint," he said to loud applause in the auditorium.

The Vatican is facing a virtual revolt by liberal nations keen to get on with drafting a global program for slowing population growth over the next 20 years.

The United States, Britain and Egypt urged the Vatican to state its reservations to the draft if it wished, rather than block agreement.

"Let's hope today either they state what their problems are and take reservations or join the consensus," Timothy Wirth, head of the US delegation

to the UN International Conference on Population and Development, told reporters.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who faces accusations by Islamists that the forum is a ploy by the West to impose its own morals on the Moslem world, said:

"If they are asking us to be flexible on an issue such as abortion, we have to explain our reasons for not accepting it. If no consensus is reached on this particular issue we can simply voice our reservations," Mubarak said.

The advice was repeated by British Minister for Overseas Development Baroness Lynda Chalker, who said most delegates were convinced the Vatican would dissent from any section on abortion.

The Vatican, backed by other Catholic states, has held up agreement on the abortion section of a draft declaration which took three years to prepare.

Many delegates say abortion has distracted them from other issues, and note that consensus has been achieved on all but 10 percent of the document.

Egyptian Population Minister Maher Mahran, in an outspoken outburst at a news conference, said the Vatican should bow to the will of states representing more than five billion people.

"Does the Vatican rule the world? If the Vatican rules the world, if the world is one country and the Vatican is the boss, then fair enough. But we are equal partners," he said.

Palestinian Police crack down on Islamic Jihad

JON IMMANUEL and ALON PINKAS

PALESTINIAN Police arrested 47 Islamic Jihad activists over the past three days, in response to Sunday's attack on an IDF patrol which killed one soldier and wounded two.

Palestinian opposition groups, from left-wingers to religious fundamentalists, issued leaflets in response to the arrests, accusing the Palestinian Authority of acting "like the Israeli occupation."

Chief among those arrested was Abdullah Shami, 40, the Islamic Jihad spokesman for those deported to southern Lebanon last year. At least five of those arrested were former deportees. Most were street activists.

The PLO crackdown, which followed the attack Sunday night near the Morag junction in the Gaza Strip, is a step in the right direction as far as the Palestinian Authority's policy against terror is concerned, senior army sources said last night.

"This crackdown is a definite step in the right direction, but consistency and time will eventually judge its effectiveness," said a Southern Command source. The source said that despite Israeli criticism of the Palestinian Police, there are objective difficulties impeding action.

"Since 1987, the IDF has not succeeded in halting fundamentalist terrorism. To ask the PLO, with its political problems of asserting authority and gaining legitimacy in Gaza, to just step in and solve the problem was unrealistic. This crackdown is thus an important move, which I hope will mark a new policy," he said.

The crackdown also followed the arrest of an Islamic Jihad member who escaped to Khan Yunis, after being wounded while fleeing by car from the scene of the attack.

Meanwhile, 17-year-old Ahmed Abu Obeid, was arrested yesterday while passing out Islamic Jihad leaflets near Khan Yunis, in which the group vowed to continue the armed struggle in defiance of the police crackdown.

A Hamas leaflet issued in response to the arrests said they "reminded us of the Israeli occupation. They will never make us kneel."

The leaflet was similar to one distributed by Islamic Jihad in response to the Hamas arrests last month, which warned that "we will be obliged to escalate our military jihad in the Gaza Strip beyond anything yet seen."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told Meretz MK Dedi Zucker last week that Islamic Jihad was also responsible for the murder of two Israelis at a building site in Ramle two weeks ago, though Hamas had claimed responsibility.

Politically it is easier for Arafat to crack down on Islamic Jihad - supported by only some 3 percent of Gazans - than on Hamas, the main opposition. Islamic Jihad is a much smaller group than Hamas, from which Arafat is attempting to win a measure of cooperation by showing he is not a servant of the Israeli authorities.

An example of this was seen yesterday, when Arafat awarded a Hamas activist, Imad Faluji, a license to establish a daily newspaper, to be called *Al-Watan*. By contrast, Israel recently closed *Al-Bayan*, a Jerusalem bimonthly, claiming it was connected to Hamas.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday that the Palestinian Authority is not doing enough to stop terrorism, and that inaction could jeopardize further implementation of the Cairo agreement.

Rabin, who spoke before the Palestinian Police began their crackdown on Islamic Jihad activists, met on Monday with James Speth, the head of the UN Development Programs agency.

Rabin emphasized the Palestinian Authority's economic difficulties and commended UNDP for its activities in the territories. UNDP has asked Israel's assistance in soliciting international financing for its programs in the territories.

In a separate series of arrests, Palestinian Police arrested five members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine last weekend. The DFLP called the arrests of its own members and the Islamic opposition a provocation.

"Yesterday we were demanding the release of prisoners [held by Israel] ignored by the Cairo agreement. Today we are asking for the release of autonomy prisoners," the DFLP said.

Five people killed in holiday road accidents

FIVE people were killed and seven injured, four seriously, in road accidents over the holiday.

Moshe Suissa, 36, suffered fatal burns when his motorcycle hit a car in Jaffa Monday evening, just after the holiday began. The bike went up in flames as the result of the collision, and Suissa was burned over nearly all of his body. He died at Ichilov Hospital. Police are still investigating the cause of the accident.

A Romanian construction worker was killed Tuesday evening when he was hit by a car near the Hadera power station. His name was not released, pending notification of his family.

A couple and their son were killed in an accident Tuesday on the Trans-Samaria highway, between Safit and the Tapuah junction.

Another son, a newly-licensed

driver, apparently lost control of the car on a curve and hit a large rock, and his parents and brother were killed instantly. The driver was seriously injured and hospitalized.

Lior Azualos, 4, of Tiberias, was seriously injured in a hit-and-run accident that occurred Tuesday afternoon on the city's King David Street. Police are asking anyone who may have witnessed the accident to call the nearest police station to give evidence.

Five people were injured yesterday, two seriously, in an accident near the Ben-Shemen Forest. A woman apparently swerved right suddenly and hit a car in the adjacent lane. The seriously injured were taken to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer, while the other three, who had suffered moderate and light injuries, were taken to Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin.



World Bank Vice President Caio Koch Weser shakes hands with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, after signing a \$30-million loan for projects in Gaza and Jericho. To the right is Palestinian Authority Finance Minister Mohammed Nashashibi. (Story, Page 2) (Reuters)

Eight arrested for helping in deadly shootings on Israelis

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE General Security Service and the IDF this week uncovered a gang of Hamas members who helped terrorists carry out several attacks, including shooting incidents in the Hebron region in which three Israelis were killed.

The eight arrested belonged to a gang headed by two of the most sought-after terrorists left in Judea, Jihad Julami and Taher Katiseh. The two escaped from Dahariya prison last November, hooking up with other Hamas fugitives, and drafted the eight into the gang.

Two of those arrested are suspected of being involved in the attempted kidnapping of Yehuda Rotner of Alon Shvut on August 24. They offered Rotner a ride to Jerusalem, which he accepted, but then jumped out of the car when he grew suspicious. The two drove a car with Israeli license plates.

The terrorists who were arrested were mainly in charge of stealing Israeli cars for use by terrorists in shooting incidents and as getaway cars.

They are also accused of helping arrange the May 17 shooting at an Israeli car near Beit Haggai, in which Rafael Yari of Kiryat Arba and Margalit Shohat of Ma'aleh Levona were killed, and in which a girl was wounded. They are also believed to have helped facilitate the July 7 attack on a car belonging to the Prigal family of Kiryat Arba, in which Sarit Prigal was killed and her father and brother wounded. Those who actually carried out the attacks are still being sought by the security forces.

UN suspends aid flights to Sarajevo, denies it told Pope to stay away

SARAJEVO (AP) - A day after Pope John Paul II was forced to cancel his visit to Sarajevo for security reasons, each side in the long, bloody conflict blamed the other for the diplomatic fiasco.

The United Nations suggested that the Bosnian Serbs were to blame for the pope's decision, but Bosnian government and Roman Catholic Church officials

faulted the United Nations, leveling particular venom at its special envoy, Yasushi Akashi.

For their part, the mostly Eastern Orthodox Serbs had predicted they would be held responsible for anything that affected the pope's planned visit to the besieged capital, regardless of who did it.

The cancellation was a bitter disappointment for Sarajevans, especially the city's 30,000 Roman Catholic Croats. The Moslem-led Bosnian government also endorsed the visit as a sign of solidarity.

The pope, speaking yesterday in Rome, said he still intended to

visit Sarajevo, when security could be guaranteed, as a "messenger of hope for the martyred population."

Prior to the pope's decision, the area around Sarajevo's airport was rocked by increasing gunfire. Aid flights were suspended yesterday after two aircraft were hit in two days as Serbs and government troops exchanged gunfire.

Bosnian Serbs also flagrantly violated Sarajevo's heavy weapons exclusion zone, firing 11 artillery rounds inside the zone Tuesday. Despite a NATO air strike August 5 for a less serious exclusion zone violation, UN officials said there

were no plans for retaliation.

Spokeswoman Claire Grimes said the United Nations was "deeply saddened" by the pope's decision, but that it was a "forbearable reminder that no progress had been made" toward ending the fighting.

She denied that Akashi had specifically urged the pope to cancel his visit. "We made the dangers very clear," she said. When asked whether Serb security guarantees would have made a difference, she replied, "absolutely."

The cancellation again focused anger at the United Nations, which many Sarajevans regard as an impotent force doing more

harm than good.

"Akashi should be tried as the worst criminal," said resident Franjo Cvitanovic, in a telephone survey by the daily *Oslobodjenje* newspaper.

Monsignor Vinko Puljic, leader of Bosnia's Roman Catholics, told reporters, "Akashi's letter... decided whether the pope would come."

Bosnia's bishops, in a statement, said the pope's cancellation "draws the world's attention to the entire tragedy of this town and all of Bosnia-Herzegovina - tragedy accompanied by unbelievable indifference to the suffering of innocent people."



UNICEF RWANDA EMERGENCY APPEAL

HELP UNICEF SAVE THE CHILDREN OF RWANDA

Donations to:
Bank Le'umi, University branch
Givat Ram, Jerusalem
Hava'ad Hayisraeli Lema'an Unicef (Rwanda)
Account no. 37350/35

World Bank signs \$30m loan for self-rule projects

IN advance of today's important meeting of donor countries in Paris, the World Bank yesterday signed a \$30-million loan agreement in Gaza for infrastructure projects in Gaza and Jericho.

The agreement, signed in Gaza by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and World Bank Vice-President Cajo Koch Weser, had been expected to boost the Paris meeting.

Palestinian Authority Finance Minister Mohammed Nashashibi told reporters "the \$30 million agreement signed is for badly needed projects including sewage, schools, roads, water and energy."

JON IMMANUEL and news agencies

Ahmad Qreia, the Palestinian Authority's Trade and Economics Minister, said that donor countries originally pledged \$128 million in projects in 1994, *Al-Quds* reported.

In Paris, donor countries are expected to decide to release some \$30 million a month for ongoing expenses and projects.

Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories Maj-Gen. Danny Rothschild and Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir will represent Israel in the three-day summit.

Donor states pledged \$2.4 billion in a Washington conference last October, but have made it contingent on Palestinians establishing clear accounting procedures and a taxation system. Agreement was reached at a conference in Washington last week, attended by Israeli and Palestinian representatives, that funds would be channeled to the Authority monthly and the Authority would set up a tax system within six months.

Alon Pinkas contributed to this report.

Golan settlers: Gov't has already agreed to large-scale withdrawal

THE government has agreed in principle to a withdrawal from large tracts of the Golan and the dismantling of 25 settlements within a short space of time, the Golan Settlers Committee charged last night.

The committee announced that this phase would be followed within three years by a withdrawal from the remainder of the Golan, and the uprooting of seven more settlements including Katzin and those on Mt. Hermon.

A government spokesman last night flatly denied the reports, according to Channel One.

The committee, which held an emergency meeting in Katzin last night, said these were the basic terms that had been agreed to by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the government in public and secret talks with the Syrians.

A statement issued after the meeting said the information about the alleged deal had been

DAVID RUDGE

compiled from a wide range of sources, including those in the Prime Minister's Office, the Foreign Ministry, and the Defense Ministry, as well as from senior US sources and those in Arab countries involved in mediating the talks.

The statement said that according to these sources, negotiations between Israel and Syria were in a very advanced stage and that a breakthrough in the talks was expected very soon.

"We are convinced that the information we have received is accurate and we are acting accordingly," Uri Heitner, spokesman for the Golan Settlers Committee, told *The Jerusalem Post* last night after their emergency meeting.

He said the committee had decided to implement contingency plans for a more intense and hard-

hitting protest campaign, details of which would be unveiled at a planned mass meeting of all Golan residents in Katzin Park next Saturday night.

Labor MK Avigdor Kahalani, head of the Golan lobby in the Knesset, is slated to participate in that meeting.

"Our battle will be determined, uncompromising and stubborn and we are convinced that it will end in a victory for us and the retention of the Golan under Israeli sovereignty," said Heitner.

"We intend to take harsh but non-violent measures in the coming days that will shake the government and the Israeli public," he said.

Heitner added that the aim of the proposed campaign was to prevent the government from taking "grave and irreparable steps behind the backs of the public and the Knesset."



Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak (center) gets a briefing from officers Monday at the Morag Junction, the site of Sunday's terrorist attack on an IDF patrol. (Yossi Cohen/IDF Spokesman)

IDF soldier killed in Morag attack buried

ALON PINKAS

SGT. Victor Shichman, 24, killed in the Morag junction attack Sunday night, was buried Monday in Nazareth Illit.

Shichman, whose family came from the former Soviet Union four years ago, was survived by his father, David, an engineer, his mother, Ludmilla, a doctor, and a sister, Ilana. Shichman, an artillery corps soldier, was eulogized by Deputy Education Minister Micha Goldman, Nazareth Illit Mayor Menahem Ariav, and the chief

artillery corps officer. Shichman was killed Sunday night at the Morag junction in the southern Gaza Strip, when an IDF foot patrol was shot at from a speeding car bearing Palestinian license plates. After the attack, the car fled to Khan Yunis.

According to a preliminary army investigation, Palestinian Police forces who witnessed the attack began shooting at what they

thought were the assailants, but apparently also hit Shichman and fatally wounded him, and possibly wounded the two other soldiers.

The Palestinian Police on Monday denied that they had shot at the IDF soldiers, saying they shot at the attackers who fled directly towards a Palestinian Police post. They confirmed that they pursued the attackers into Khan Yunis.

On Monday, the Islamic Jihad

claimed responsibility for the attack, a statement that was followed by a Palestinian Police crackdown on the organization's activists.

Two other soldiers were wounded in the attack. Ophir Matrai from Kibbutz Mishmar David, who suffered shrapnel wounds in the back, was released from Soroka Hospital on Monday evening. Yitzhak Matrai, of Tel Aviv, was listed in satisfactory condition with arm, leg and knee wounds.

Abu Mazen due to arrive in Gaza next week

JON IMMANUEL

MAHMOUD Abbas, (Abu Mazen), the chief Palestinian architect of the Oslo accords, is expected to arrive in Gaza within the week, but will not take a post in the Palestinian Authority since he is in charge of preparing for final phase negotiations with Israel, Palestinian sources say.

Abbas, together with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, signed the PLO-Israel peace agreement on the White House lawn last September 13.

Palestinian sources say Abbas will not spend most of his time in

Gaza, but will remain based in Tunis.

Abbas is PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's chief deputy, but together with Farouk Khadumi, who is known to be hostile to the peace accords, Abbas maintains an office in Tunis.

According to *Reuters* in Tunis, Abbas leaves today via Amman for a two-week stay which will include a visit to his hometown of Safed. He will remain in Tunis after the visit but eventually take up residence in the Palestinian areas, according to PLO sources there.

Army source: Edri may be tip of iceberg

ALON PINKAS and HERB KEINON

A NEW Jewish underground may have been in the making, a very senior army source said Monday.

He was referring to evidence gathered following the arrest of Lt. Oren Edri, who was arrested Sunday along with two other Kuryat Arba residents on suspicion of selling stolen army weapons to a Jewish extremist group, for use in attacks against Arabs.

The source said that what has been revealed may be "just the tip of the iceberg," but added that Edri's involvement was apparently limited to logistical assistance to the group, rather than in the planning of operations.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday that he does not think that the arrests and the information gathered point to the formation of an underground, but only to a group of extremists in a rudimentary phase of organization.

The High Court of Justice is scheduled this morning to hear a petition demanding that the police and General Security Service allow a meeting between Edri and his lawyer, Tel Aviv attorney Tzvi Amir.

Edri was remanded Sunday by the Haifa Magistrate's Court for eight days, and since his arrest has not been allowed to meet his lawyer.

The two other suspects, whose names have been barred from publication for "security reasons," have also not yet met with their lawyer, Likud MK David Mena.

"It is inconceivable that in a democratic society someone accused of a crime, no matter what the crime is, can be prevented from receiving legal advice from his lawyer," Amir said. "I maintain that this is anti-democratic, and is intended to break my client."

Syria: Israel thwarting peace process

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria said yesterday that Israel's rejection of resuming peace negotiations with it in Washington was aimed at forcing Damascus into "secret talks which would only yield partial and phased deals."

"Failing the Washington peace negotiations and steering them away from their path and targets was, and is still, Israel's foremost concern," the government-run *Tishrin* daily said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was quoted Monday as saying, he had rejected a US offer to restart direct talks with Syria, which have been stalled since February.

Rabin, in an interview with *Yedioth Aharnoth*, said he told US Secretary of State Warren Christo-

pher that resuming the talks was "not a good idea."

Rabin was quoted as saying the Syrians "would immediately raise the demand for an Israeli agreement to a complete withdrawal" from the Golan Heights "and there would be a freeze."

Tishrin said Rabin's "outspoken rejection" was part of Israel's strategy of undermining the aims of the 1991 Madrid conference and splitting the Arab parties into individual negotiations rather than the envisaged "comprehensive settlement."

Israel wants to "replace the Washington talks with unilateral and secret talks, which would only yield partial and phased deals," *Tishrin* declared.

It stressed that Syria, "which is fully aware of Israel's misleading and procrastinating methods, still adheres to the just and comprehensive solution and will never be dragged into Israel's plans and unilateral deals."

Meanwhile, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara told reporters in London Tuesday that Syria "would like to see much more seriousness from the Israeli side, less contradiction in their statements, more clarity in talking openly about the full withdrawal."

After talks with Shara, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Syria sought a successful conclusion of the three-year-old talks, adding: "We strongly support that and we hope it will not be long."

Rabin fears Hizbullah may get Stinger missiles

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin said over the holiday that he feared Hizbullah terrorists might eventually get Stinger missiles from Afghanistan, in addition to the weapons and funds they are already getting from Iran.

Speaking in a special holiday interview with Israel Radio on Tues-

day morning, Rabin spent several minutes discussing the situation in Lebanon.

"Out problem is how to deal with terrorism," he said. "We had illusions that there could be a war that would end all wars, that there is a campaign that would eliminate terror once and for all."

"We tried this in Lebanon and in fact the Palestinian element received a heavy blow, but it was replaced by a Lebanese terrorist element — Hizbullah and other Lebanese groups whose attacks are more serious than those of the Palestinians in the past."

"They have help from Iran, weapons and money, Sappers, mortars, and Strella shoulder-held missiles. I hope that they will not also get Stinger missiles from Afghanistan," he said.

What especially worries him, he said, is "the ugly wave of Khomineism without Khomenei, the ugly wave of Islamic extremism and terrorism that has enveloped many Arab and Islamic states without any connection to the Arab-Israeli conflict."

He said that Iran was bankrolling Islamic extremists throughout the world, and making an effort to supply them with conventional and non-conventional weapons, which in the medium and long term could pose a serious international threat.

He criticized Japan and European countries for trading with Iran "out of their own economic interests," and said China and Russia were helping Iran build nuclear reactors. (TIM)

Voice of the South radio: Lebanese forces see Syria as an occupation force

DAVID RUDGE

THE Lebanese Forces militia, disbanded and disarmed as part of the new order in Lebanon, has annulled recognition of the Taif accord and intends to carry out "resistance activities" to defend the interests of the country's Christian community.

According to a report on the Voice of the South radio, which broadcasts from the security zone, the Lebanese Forces — once the most powerful of all Lebanon's militias during the country's 16-year-long civil war — had been taken over by a new joint leadership which viewed Syria's presence as that of an occupation force.

The radio station said it had not been able to verify the information which had been received in the form of a statement signed by the Lebanese Forces command council.

The statement, broadcast by the Syrian station, said that the joint council had taken over from Samir Geagea, who had been temporarily removed from his post. Geagea himself was arrested by the Lebanese authorities several weeks ago

on suspicion of involvement in the bombing of a church earlier this year.

According to the Voice of the South report, the statement said the command council did not recognize the decision to shut down the Lebanese Forces and the latter would resume "resistance activities" to protect the Christian community's interests.

Some Lebanese newspapers printed the reported announcement, although the reaction was very muted. Only one newspaper, *Al-Liwa*, commented on the report saying that if the announcement was correct, the new Lebanese Forces command council had brought together the right-wing Guardians of the Cedars organization with supporters of ousted former Lebanese Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun, who fought an unsuccessful battle against pro-Syrian elements that split Lebanon's Christian community and ended with the Syrians in control.

Al-Liwa described the reported shake-up of the Lebanese Forces as an Israeli ploy.

Suspect held in TA slaying of reputed underworld figure

RAINE MARCUS

A 36-YEAR-OLD man suspected of the murder of reputed underworld figure Amnon Babashian was remanded for a week by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Judge George Kara forbade publication of the suspect's name or identifying details.

Babashian, 51, was gunned down in his Tel Aviv restaurant about a month ago by a man wear-

ing dark glasses and a baseball cap. Babashian fled the US some five years ago, after police there issued a warrant for his arrest for the attempted murder of a man who was to testify in court against him.

Police said that same witness allegedly killed Babashian as an act of revenge for the attempted murder. Babashian's nephew is currently serving time in prison in the US for the attack on the witness.

'An-Nahar' newspaper reopens

Jerusalem Post Staff

An-Nahar, the pro-Jordanian daily newspaper which closed after PLO chairman Yasser Arafat banned it on July 28, reopened on Monday. Othman Hallak, the proprietor, received a license to resume distribution last week, several days after meeting with PA chairman Yasser Arafat.

With sorrow we announce the passing of
Harav AHARON SCHUSTER זצ"ל
The former Chief Rabbi of Holland

Mourning by:
Son: Avraham Abba Schuster, Holland
Daughter: Leah Shulamit Krasniker
Son-in-law: Moshe Krasniker
Grandchildren and great-grandchildren
Danziger family, Bnei Brak

The funeral will take place at 12:00 noon, today,
Thursday, September 8, 1994 (3 Tishrei 5755), at the Shamgar
funeral parlor, Jerusalem, departing to Har Hazeitim.
Shiva: Krasniker, 2 Shmaryahu Levine, Jerusalem

With deep sorrow, we announce the death, on the first
night of Rosh Hashana 5755, September 5, 1994, of our
dearly beloved husband and nephew
DAN LEON LANDAU
son of the late Itzhak and Rivka Landau

Mourning by:
His wife: Greer Fay Cashman
His aunt: Batya Landau
Cousins and friends

The funeral will take place late this afternoon,
Thursday, September 8, 1994.
For details please telephone 02-637191, 02-315556, or 02-781653.
Shiva at the home of Rabbi and Mrs. Emanuel Quint,
18 Graetz Street, Tzviyah Jerusalem, Tel. 02-633012, or 662707.

To Greer Fay Cashman
Our condolences on the passing of your
Husband

Management and Staff
of The Jerusalem Post

Our deepest condolences to the Robinson family
on the death of
DANI ROBINSON
Members of Kibbutz Beit Guvrin

Renata Life from the Dead Sea
DI MARDI

Renata di Mardi Treatment Cosmetics blend ancient cosmetic ingredients with modern, advanced research creating a luxurious product line for today's woman. Minerals, salts and mud from the Dead Sea, along with natural plant extracts are precisely formulated and chemically tested to the highest international standards (not tested on animals). A little every day will impart a fresh feeling, and supply radiant skin.

Renata di Mardi products are made in Israel for export, and are sold in the United States, Japan and Europe. Now, The Jerusalem Post is offering its readers in Israel two unique gift packs. A superb gift idea for special women, and that could be you!

Facial Gift Pack:
Luxury Toner 30 ml.
Luxury Moisturising Cream 15 ml.
Luxury Cleanser 30 ml.

Hand & Body Gift Pack:
Luxury Body Lotion 30 ml.
Luxury Hand Cream 30 ml.
Aloe Vera Gel 15 ml.

Suggested Retail Price: NIS 48.00
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'Shogun' author dies

LONDON (AP) — James Clavell, screenwriter and best-selling author of *Shogun*, has died in Switzerland after suffering a stroke, his publisher Eric Major of Hodder and Stoughton in London, said yesterday.

He said Clavell lived in Switzerland.

The Australian-born Clavell was screenwriter of immensely popular movies, such as the first version of *The Fly*, *The Great Escape*, and *To Sir With Love*.

His novels about the Far East include *King Rat* and *Tai-Pan*. *Shogun*, and *Noble House* were made into popular television mini-series.

Turning his attentions to Iran in 1986, he wrote *Whirlwind*, which sold 4 million paperback copies in the United States alone.

Clavell's latest novel *Gai-Jin* was published by Hodder and Stoughton last year and became an international bestseller.

"He was one of the great epic storytellers of our age — a man who was deeply imbued in tradition, and also enormous fun to work with," said Major.

Explaining the huge popularity of *Shogun*, Major said, "It took the Western mind into a completely different world. It was the first time that one began to understand the Japanese. This came from the period when he was incarcerated as a POW at Chang Yi prison in Singapore, as a young man in his early 20s."

"He also had this ability to handle vast casts of characters... to give them personalities so they were instantly recognizable — also all of his books had a very strong woman at the center of them."

Clavell was born Oct. 10, 1924 in Sydney, Australia to British parents. His father was in the Royal Navy.

During World War II he was imprisoned by the Japanese at Singapore's Chang Yi camp, an experience that led to his first novel, *King Rat* in 1962.

After the war he went into films as a writer, then began to direct his own work — *To Sir With Love*, and *The Last Valley*.

He returned to writing fiction with the best-seller *Tai-Pan* in 1966, and continued to produce books after thick book of intriguing historical tales set mostly in Asia.

Clavell lived for many years in the United States and in France.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, April Clavell, and two daughters, Major said. Funeral plans were not immediately announced.

10 dead, 21 wounded in Moscow blast

MOSCOW (AP) — An estimated 10 people were killed and at least 21 were wounded in an explosion that ripped through a Moscow police station last night, officials said.

Igor Nadezhdin, spokesman for Moscow's municipal medical department, said medics and rescue teams continued to search for survivors under the rubble of the two-story house partially destroyed in the blast.

Nadezhdin said five bodies have been recovered so far. Marina Rykline, spokeswoman for the Emergency Situations Ministry, estimated the number of those killed at 10.

The Interfax news agency gave a different casualty toll, saying six people were killed and 27 were wounded, five of them children. It said four of the wounded were in serious condition.

It said the explosion occurred in the basement of a house occupied by the passport office of the local police station No. 44 and a district housing maintenance service. The basement was used for the storage of paint cans and other materials, Interfax said.

Officials said workers apparently left the basement 10 minutes before the blast and could have forgotten a burning cigarette inside, but also did not rule out that the explosion was a criminal attack.



Pop superstar Michael Jackson and his wife Lisa-Marie Presley wave to admirers as they visit the Versailles castle near Paris yesterday. The couple will appear at the MTV Video Music Awards tonight in their first television appearance as husband and wife.

Cuban migration talks stall

NEW YORK (AP) — After six days of arduous talks and no agreement on an immigration accord, Cuba's top negotiator headed back to Havana yesterday. US officials said the talks may resume as early as Friday.

The two countries had been discussing how to stop the exodus of Cubans trying to reach Florida on homemade rafts. More than 30,000 rafts have been picked up at sea since Aug. 5, when Cuban President Fidel Castro relaxed immigration restrictions.

Yesterday's meeting, however, broke up after only about an hour. David Johnson, spokesman for the US delegation, said Cuba's former foreign minister Ricardo Alarcon would return to New York "in the next few days," and talks could resume as early as Friday.

"I would not ascribe any particular significance to this at all," Johnson said of Alarcon's trip back to Havana.

The Cuban delegation had no comment yesterday.

The abbreviated session came one day after the Cuban dele-

gation said it could be flexible about discussing its major demand — that the United States ease its 32-year-old economic embargo against the Communist island nation.

The United States has offered to expand legal immigration from Cuba to at least 20,000 people a year in return for Havana's promise to halt raft exodus.

Cuba, for its part, hopes to tie an agreement to the easing of the embargo, which has contributed to a declining standard of living and growing unrest.

The talks yesterday concerned Cuba's counterproposal to the US "offer." Although details were not revealed, US officials indicated that it was disappointing and that more work needed to be done to reach an accord.

Western and Latin American diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Cuba appears willing to strike a deal if larger issues of US-Cuban relations and the embargo are discussed later.

Alarcon on Tuesday denied reports that Havana is seeking entry for 100,000 migrants a year. "We have not talked about numbers,"

he said.

Alarcon, however, insisted Cuba wouldn't halt the exodus without an accord. Cuba, criticized in the past for forbidding its citizens to leave, now will not deny their fundamental right to emigrate, he added.

In Panama yesterday, Cuban refugees settled into a tent camp after a US airlift of thousands of rafters got under way.

Panama is letting 10,000 refugees stay temporarily as a "humanitarian gesture" but has told the United States they must be relocated within six months.

The Cubans will be flown in on US military planes and chartered jetliners in the coming weeks to help ease crowding at the fast-filling camp set up at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

More than 23,000 Cuban refugees picked up by the US Coast Guard have been detained at Guantanamo Bay, which also holds 14,000 Haitian boat people.

The Cubans were among the more than 33,000 picked up this year — nine times the number of Cuban rafters picked up all of last year.

Britain relaxes security in Northern Ireland

DESPITE continuing doubts that the IRA has laid down arms forever, Britain said yesterday that security has been relaxed in Northern Ireland.

On the seventh day of the IRA cease-fire, British Prime Minister John Major said "gradually, it is being made a little clearer that perhaps this is not just a temporary cease-fire."

"But it isn't clear yet," Major said.

US Vice President Al Gore indicated during a stop at Shannon, Ireland, that he accepted the judgment of Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds that the IRA's 24-year campaign is over.

Gore urged Protestant unionists in Northern Ireland to trust Reynolds. "He is a man of his word, totally and absolutely. And I would encourage anyone to make a decision on participation on that basis."

Once Major is satisfied that the cease-fire is permanent, Britain has promised to meet with members of the IRA's political allies in the Sinn Féin party, to discuss terms for joining all-party negotiations on Northern Ireland.

Britain's top official in the province, Sir Patrick Mayhew, confirmed yesterday that security has relaxed. News reports have said that some vehicle checkpoints have been abandoned.

"Certain things are not in place that were," said Mayhew, who mentioned that many soldiers have been wearing berets instead

ROBERT BARR
BELFAST

of helmets.

But in the IRA heartland around Belfast's Falls Road, soldiers had helmets in place yesterday afternoon as they patrolled residential areas. And the prospect that they may go away makes some Catholics nervous, so long as Protestant "loyalist" gunmen remain active.

"There is no doubt that vulnerable nationalist communities require security and protection," said Alex Atwood, a Belfast city council member from the Social Democratic and Labor Party, the main Catholic party.

"That's why, whilst we've asked for a reduction in army presence, we've asked that the army sit on the exit and access roads... to provide a degree of security from loyalist 'roaming attacks,'" Atwood said.

Martin McGuinness, the deputy leader of Sinn Féin, said he saw no evidence of reduced security.

"On the contrary, the continuation of raids and arrests, the saturation of nationalist areas... and the closure of re-opened border roads, is evidence of a no-change policy by the British government," he said.

On the Protestant side, Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the hard-line Democratic Unionist Party, condemned any moves to ease back on security. "The folly

of this dangerously incompetent government beggars belief," Robinson said.

While Major has temporized about accepting IRA assurances, he has become embroiled in a dispute with militants on the Protestant side.

On Tuesday, Major walked out of a meeting with the Rev. Ian Paisley after Major demanded but didn't get assurance from Paisley that he accepted the prime minister's word.

Paisley fired back again yesterday at a news conference in Belfast, resorting to his recent habit of comparing his enemies to Nazis.

"This is what Hitler said, you are to believe me or you go to the gas chamber," Paisley said.

"I will continue to expose his lying on TV. Who does he think he is? He is trying to be a dictator."

The feud with Paisley does not bode well for the success of any eventual negotiations. The British tried but failed to get a settlement with Sinn Féin excluded; Paisley, though his party is only the second-largest Protestant party, commands a larger following than Sinn Féin. In the 1992 general election Paisley's party took 13 percent of the vote compared with 10 percent for Sinn Féin.

Resistance from Protestants has wrecked previous attempts at compromise, notably in 1974 when a strike brought down a "power-sharing executive" which had guaranteed representation for minority Catholics.

(AP)

Press, government clash in S. Africa

DAVID TUCKER
JOHANNESBURG

THE honeymoon, if there ever was one, between President Nelson Mandela's black-led government and South Africa's white-dominated newspapers is over, but opinions differ widely about who is to blame for the split.

Opinions differ on who is to blame for the split in a relationship forged out of a common cause against South Africa's past apartheid rulers and the birth of a new nation after three centuries of white power.

"Relations between the government and sections of the media can be said to be at a relatively low ebb," Mandela told newspaper editors on Tuesday, referring to tensions between his national unity government and the press.

But he also called for the expansion and deepening of media freedoms linked to greater access to information and freedom of expression for the black majority.

Members of his ANC, which came to power in the country's first all-race elections in April, have complained of unfair reporting on the lifestyles of the newly-rich and famous and their perks, including luxury cars and free air travel.

"The criticism is far too sharp, especially in relation to allegations of the gravy train... sometimes I

wrote them feeling that those who wrote them believe that black people in government are expected to live in ghettos created by apartheid," human rights lawyer George Bizos told Reuters yesterday.

Bizos, who defended black nationalists including Mandela in treason trials in the early 1960s, accused sections of the press of double-standards.

"I have a feeling that sections of the press are not being fair. They are calling for transparency from everyone in government or from statutory bodies, but they themselves publish anonymous sources' allegations against people in government."

He said the press had been particularly unfair to PWV provincial premier Tokyo Sexwale, described in a recent article by *Sunday Times* editor Ken Owen as His Regional Highness.

Sexwale responded by accusing some sections of the press of seeking to undermine public confidence in the country's first black-led government. Deputy President Thabo Mbeki also entered the fray, saying the media had perpet-

uated its apartheid-era role of criticizing the government and looking for crises.

Willie Breitenbach, a political scientist at the University of Stellenbosch, had a different view.

"The ANC is beginning to sound very much the same as (past president) P.W. Botha who considered South Africa was under threat from a diabolical outside world and the press should know right from wrong."

"There is a different agenda...but there are striking similarities. The ANC, I think, considers the media has to be mobilized to support its RDP," he said, referring to the 37.5 billion rand (\$10 billion) plan to redress the imbalances of four decades of apartheid rule.

The government could do little wrong in the eyes of the press in the euphoria following the April elections, which were won by Mandela's African National Congress. But the ruling party has been stung by recent criticism that it stopped the old apartheid gravy train only long enough to get on.

"Given the utterances of some members of the ANC, I fear we are coming close to the strait-jacket that has been placed on the media in the rest of Africa," said Breitenbach. (Reuters)

Nigerian justice minister disowns military decrees

LAGOS (Reuters) — Nigeria's minister of justice has disowned military government decrees "which sweep away our liberties" and threatened to resign.

The new laws, which became public knowledge on Tuesday, give military rulers wide powers of arrest in their battle against democracy campaigners and bar any challenge to their actions through the courts.

Justice Minister and Attorney-General Olu Onagoruwa, a democracy campaigner himself until he was recruited into the government by General Sani Abacha, told reporters yesterday he had nothing to do with new decrees.

He said laws were supposed to be made by the Provisional Ruling Council of which he is a member and drafted by the Ministry of Justice.

"To the best of my knowledge, all the decrees being talked about never passed through these procedures. In fact, the Federal Minis-

try of Justice has not seen a copy of these laws," he said.

"We disown responsibility for these laws, neither can we vouch for their authenticity," he added.

"A situation where persons and individuals or groups of persons purport to prepare decrees outside the authority of the attorney-general for the signature of the head of state constitutes a prescription for anarchy," Onagoruwa said.

"The ministry has to clear the air in that it has no knowledge, no copy or any information about the promulgation of these decrees which sweep away our liberties."

The decrees allow detention without trial and ban opposition newspapers.

A law saying the government's actions could not be challenged in court was backdated to November, when Abacha seized power during anarchy unleashed by the annulment of an election which the army had promised would restore civilian government.

Bhutto: Islamic countries must unite

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto bluntly told the world's Islamic countries they were "weak and divided," and said yesterday they must unite to end conflicts stretching from Afghanistan to Bosnia.

"Today it is Muslims who are the main victims of aggression throughout the world," Ms. Bhutto said as she opened a meeting of foreign ministers from the 51-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The conference turned normally placid Islamabad into a beehive of diplomatic activity, though no major initiatives are expected to emerge during the three days of talks. The OIC is a diverse, unwieldy group with a history of passing resolutions that aren't followed up with action.

Ms. Bhutto said most Islamic nations remained impoverished and underdeveloped, and a lack of Muslim solidarity left them open to exploitation by others.

"The Islamic world is weak and

divided," said Ms. Bhutto, one of the only women in a packed hotel conference center. "Many of us are locked in disputes with each other. Most of our people live in poverty."

Many delegates consider the Bosnian war the most pressing issue, and the Islamic states appear unanimous in calling for the lifting of the UN arms embargo against Bosnia, where the Muslims have been gunned by the rival Serbs.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic said his Muslim fighters were evading the embargo with smuggled weapons, though he refused to say which countries were involved.

"We are smuggling arms into our own country. We make arms. We shall take arms from wherever we can," Silajdzic told a news conference.

"It is unbelievable that (the arms embargo) is still valid although it has not brought anything at all but death, misery and destruction," he said.

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EU leaders discuss cross-border crime

STEPHEN NISBET

BERLIN

EUROPEAN Union justice and interior ministers yesterday discussed plans to fight international crimes ranging from nuclear smuggling to car theft in a post-Cold War Europe of loosened border controls.

The ministers, meeting informally at Berlin's Reichstag building, also debated possible extensions of the role of Europol, the bloc's embryo police, in taking on organized crime.

The German presidency of the EU, which runs for six months until the end of this year, expressed confidence after the meeting that Europol's tasks would gradually be expanded to include issues such as nuclear smuggling and car theft.

But other ministers struck a more cautious note, both on the idea of any rapid widening of Europol's job and on the nuclear theft question which the German government has been stressing in the run-up to a general election next month.

A junior British home affairs minister, Michael Forsyth, said Europol should wait before learning to run, adding he was unaware of any nuclear smuggling case in Britain of the kind that has caused such official alarm in Bonn.

The EU ministers on today will hold talks with their counterparts from six East European countries, and the issue of cross-border crime involving drugs and illegal immigrants is expected to be high on the agenda as well as nuclear smuggling.

Padaig Flynn, the EU's Justice and Home Affairs Commissioner, said yesterday there was considerable sympathy among ministers for Forsyth's point that a thorough joint assessment was needed by

European governments on the scale and implications of the problem which the Germans had highlighted.

Since May there have been four seizures of nuclear material which Bonn believes may have come from stocks in Russia or other parts of the former Soviet Union.

Interior Minister Manfred Kanther told a news conference after yesterday's talks: "There have been hundreds of cases in the whole of Europe in the last few years. Clearly the market is being tested."

"Border controls must be stepped up and we must fight nuclear crime in the potential countries of origin," added Kanther, who linked the upsurge of cases of people trying to find buyers for stolen nuclear material to closer links with the former Soviet bloc after the Cold War.

Kanther said he believed there was a "fair chance" that there could be agreement among the EU member states "by the end of autumn" on a Europol convention spelling out the agency's structure and responsibilities.

But he acknowledged that more discussion was needed on the question of adding an anti-terrorism role to Europol's future responsibilities, and that there was still no consensus on the issue of how to ensure parliamentary control over Europol.

A Europol drugs unit has been functioning in The Hague since the start of this year, and Germany has been pressing for an early widening of its functions. The unit is at present basically a relay point to exchange information between national police and customs authorities. (Reuters)

Democrats shun Clinton in anti-Washington campaign

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Democrats are campaigning for November's congressional elections on themes of small government, family values and law and order - traditional Republican issues.

A review of campaign television advertisements for a dozen Democrats running for the Senate shows most candidates from President Clinton's party, whether incumbents or challengers, are scurrying to portray themselves as political outsiders.

The advertisements show all are fighting Congress and what they see as the institutional corruption of Washington, D.C.

"He hasn't forgotten where he comes from. He votes for what he believes in and not just for the party," says one fairly typical spot for New Mexico Senator Jeff Bingaman, who faces a tough battle to win re-election.

Thirty-five Senate seats and all 435 slots in the House of Representatives are up for renewal in the November 8 vote, with Republicans - now a minority in both houses - expected to make gains and possibly even retake control of the Senate.

The advertising makes clear Democrats are running scared.

"You can't tell from their spots whether these guys are Republicans or Democrats. They rarely even say they are Democrats and never ever mention President Clinton," said Gary Koops of the Republican senatorial campaign committee.

"They're not talking about Clinton issues. They're running on Republican agenda items," Koops said.

One of the most popular is fighting Washington waste, as in this ad for Nevada Democratic Senator

Dick Bryan, in which an announcer declares: "For 39 years, Washington has wasted our tax dollars subsidizing wool and mohair production."

"Dick Bryan stood up for taxpayers and passed a law to end the ripoff. When Congress wanted to waste millions searching for extraterrestrials in outer space, Dick Bryan stood up for us and ended the waste. Dick Bryan - for the balanced-budget and for fighting waste, Nevada tough."

In Arizona, Democratic hopeful Sam Coppersmith, a House member seeking a Senate seat, reminds voters he's a homebody and not a creature of Washington.

One of his spots intones: "Two years ago, Arizona sent Sam Coppersmith to Congress to fight for change. With independence and courage, he started solving problems and standing up for what's right. And he never forgets where he came from."

Then Coppersmith himself comes on. "The hardest thing in Washington is to remember the difference between who you work with and who you work for. People in Washington, you work with them. But the people you work for are back here in Arizona."

The theme of traditional family values is usually a Republican issue, but Democrat Bob Carr, running for the Senate in Michigan, has something to say about it.

"Sometimes it seems that the moral fabric of our society is coming apart," Carr says in one of his paid messages.

"Too many kids think it's OK to cheat on an exam. Too many adults think it's OK to lie. We've got to get back to some basics and that means individual responsibility."



A Zairean aid worker leads hundreds of Rwandan refugee children down to the shore of Lake Kivu near Goma. (AP)

UN sends team to evaluate security in Goma refugee camps

DILIP GANGULY

GOMA

A Hutu refugee who wanted to return to Rwanda was chased by a mob and stoned to death yesterday, an aid official said. The man was the latest victim in a wave of violence sweeping the overloaded refugee camps.

UN officials and aid workers are finding dozens of bodies daily of people who have died overnight in refugee camps around Goma. Some have stab wounds or crushed heads, suggesting they have been murdered.

After weeks of similar reports, the United Nations is now sending a team to evaluate security in the camps, which are so dangerous that Western aid workers must leave before dark.

"This team will evaluate the entire security situation and suggest ways how to deal with the condition," UN High Commissioner for Refugees spokesman Kris Jan-

owski said yesterday. "The camps are huge and our people are in a very limited area," he added.

Yesterday's killing in the Kibumba camp, home to 340,000 Hutu refugees from Rwanda, was unusual only because it was witnessed by a Westerner.

"It was the most bizarre thing I have ever seen in my life," said the aid official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "They chased the man...then they surrounded him and then they stoned him to death."

The UN team, whose composition is still being worked out in New York, will arrive later this week and will be headed by Shahrar Khan, the UN special representative for Rwanda.

Team members will talk with Zairian authorities and will travel to the camps, where they will try to convince camp elders that the intimidation and killing must stop, Janowski said.

The UN has no police force to enforce law and order in the camps, which are under virtual control of 30,000 Hutu soldiers and 70,000 militia. Those Hutus are adamant about not returning to Rwanda, which since July has been under the control of the former Tutsi rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front.

The Hutus need the refugees as a bargaining chip to regain at least some of the power they lost after being ousted this summer.

Aid workers say every morning when they visit the camps, they

come across dozens of bodies wrapped up and lying around for disposal. No post-mortem examinations of the bodies are done, but aid workers believe the refugees were killed by Hutu death squads, said another foreign aid worker, who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

The aid worker said clotted blood on some of the bodies and badly bruised heads indicated they had been injured rather than dying of disease.

Zaire is home to more than 1.2 million Hutu refugees who fled the advancing army of the Tutsi rebels now in power in Rwanda. More than 800,000 more Rwandan refugees are in other neighboring countries.

The rebel offensive began after Hutu militias launched massacres this spring, killing up to 500,000 Tutsis. Some opposition Hutus were also killed. (AP)

Portugal's Marranos emerge after five centuries

HELENA POZNIAK

BELMONTE, Portugal

AFTER five centuries of clandestine worship, a small gathering of Jews in the remote town of Belmonte has shed the pretense of Christianity and is reclaiming its past with the help of a Jerusalem rabbi.

The 200-strong community is the only sizeable group of Jews in Portugal to have clung secretly to its identity since persecutions began in the 15th century.

"This community has waited 500 years - it was Catholic on the outside, but Jewish within," says 31-year-old Rabbi Shlomo Sobag, who came from Jerusalem last year at Belmonte's request.

In 1497 Portugal ordered Jews to convert or leave, following the example of neighboring Spain five years earlier.

Only a fraction of Portugal's Jews left. Most publicly renounced their religion and became "New Christians" instead.

Many converts adopted names of trees or places as surnames to disguise their Jewish origins and these are now common throughout Portugal. Today's telephone directories are packed with names such as Oliveira (olive tree), Pereira (pear tree), Castanheira (chestnut tree) and Lisboa (Lisbon).

Jewish couples would wed publicly in church, but a Jewish ceremony would be held later in private homes.

At the start of the Sabbath, Jewish women would light candles at home and chant the Hebrew prayers passed from generation to generation by word of mouth.

"It must have taken incredible resistance, huge courage to remain in Portugal at the time of the Inquisition," says Estelle Muchnik, a leading figure of Lisbon's Jewish community. "Up to 20 percent of the population was probably Jewish at that time, but they risked being burnt at the stake."

The Portuguese Inquisition was suppressed in 1820, but Judaism was only granted legal status in 1921. Six years ago, most Jews in Belmonte finally cut links with the Roman Catholic Church, encouraged by growing religious tolerance in Portugal, and wrote to Israel for support.

"We were clandestine Marranos. Now we are learning to become orthodox," said one Jewish woman, born in Belmonte. "We are more relaxed now - we felt freer after the 1974 revolution," she explained.

For Rabbi Sobag and his wife Miriam, it has not been an easy year, since Belmonte's Jews retained only a smattering of traditions, modified over the years by Catholicism in isolation from any

other Jewish community. "You can't, in a short space of time, introduce too many restrictions," he said. "People can't suddenly miss work for a week due to some festival or stop eating food they've had all their life."

The children are eager to learn about Israel and attend Miriam's impromptu Hebrew lessons, where she gives a colorful description of the Jewish orthodox lifestyle.

"The next generation will be different," she says. "Children are already telling the older generations how things are done."

Every night men gather in a makeshift synagogue - an annex to the rabbi's house - and the community has plans to build a proper place of worship this year. "They have more devotion than Jewish communities in Lisbon," Rabbi Sobag said.

Christian residents of Belmonte are bemused by the sudden rise in the Jewish community's profile but most welcome the change. Lucinda Melo, Belmonte's tourism officer said: "We would play with them at school as with any other boys and girls, but sometimes they seemed to have an inferiority complex. It's a good thing the rabbi is doing here."

London's *Evening Standard* newspaper quoted one "insider" at Sky as saying of the \$20 million plan: "Just think of the impact. It would be all over the press."

But in a commentary, the newspaper called on the British government to step in to ban such advertisements. "The sky is full of advertising messages - for hi-fi, cameras, breakfast cereals, hamburgers, porn channels - Shake-speare's 'floor of heaven thick in-laid with patines of bright gold' has become a permanent Piccadilly Circus suspended above us all," it said.

Charles furious over nude photo

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's Prince Charles was said to be furious on yesterday over a photograph taken of him nearly nude while on holiday, and royal aides were considering what steps to take over the episode.

The picture of the heir to the throne at a French chateau with just a towel draped over his shoulder left little to the imagination when it was splashed on the front page of the German tabloid *Bild* yesterday.

"You can compare it with the David of Michelangelo," Paul Martin, deputy editor of *Bild*, told BBC radio justifying his decision to publish.

Martin said he had taken calls from delighted readers. "It is an absolutely perfectly shaped body," he added.

But a spokeswoman for Buckingham Palace branded the photos highly intrusive. "It's completely unjustifiable to inflict this sort of intrusion on anyone," she said. The palace was "considering what (action) may be appropriate."

"Anyone would find this sort of intrusion deeply unpleasant and annoying," the spokeswoman said when asked for the reaction of Charles who is estranged from his glamorous wife Diana.

But *Bild* raved about 45-year-old Charles's bronzed body "hunky like a Greek statue", claiming the first ever nude picture of Queen Elizabeth's eldest son.

"We were offered the picture yesterday and we bought it right away," Martin said. "We have had consultations of course with our lawyers and our legal department and they had no doubts about publishing it."

He refused to say how much the picture had cost but said the price tag was "surprisingly low."

Sky-TV may beam logo into night sky

LONDON (Reuters) - Sky television station said yesterday it may next year launch a space satellite to project its logo, which will appear to be about the size of the full moon in the night sky.

A spokesman for the Sky satellite network said a plan for an extra-terrestrial advertisement, on a satellite in a geostationary orbit 200-300 km above the earth, was "in the process of being researched and developed."

The advertisement, which would be shown for up to five days, would be directed at Britain but would be visible from other parts of Europe.

The satellite would be launched conventionally. But when it reached orbit, it would unfold to reveal the logo, which would be lit up by the sun, in the same way as the moon.

London's *Evening Standard* newspaper quoted one "insider" at Sky as saying of the \$20 million plan: "Just think of the impact. It would be all over the press."

But in a commentary, the newspaper called on the British government to step in to ban such advertisements. "The sky is full of advertising messages - for hi-fi, cameras, breakfast cereals, hamburgers, porn channels - Shake-speare's 'floor of heaven thick in-laid with patines of bright gold' has become a permanent Piccadilly Circus suspended above us all," it said.

Play the Stock Exchange and Smile!

That's right! The bottom never drops out of Hish-Gad's Boursa - no painful financial losses, and the market is always stable! A Hish-Gad Boursa 1 ticket costs you just NIS10, and if you win one of the first prizes, you're NIS100,000 better off. No other Boursa offers you such gains - a million per cent in seconds!

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The No. 1 Boursa



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and submitted on the attached coupon, ADS
OR FAX. The right to reject or edit any ad is

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Acting under pressure

THE arrest of scores of Islamic Jihad activists in Gaza by the Palestinian Police should not generate undue optimism. True, this is the first time the police force in the autonomous areas has taken any real action following terror incidents, but it is plain PLO leader Yasser Arafat only ordered the crackdown following strong Israeli pressure.

Indeed, after the killing of IDF soldier Victor Shichman in Gaza Sunday night, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned Arafat that a refusal to take action would make it difficult for Israel to further implement the Cairo agreement concerning the expansion of Palestinian self-rule.

In a Rosh Hashana-eve interview with *The Jerusalem Post's* Steve Rodan and Alon Pinkas, Rabin also made it clear that until now, the Palestinian Authority had failed to meet its commitment under the Declaration of Principles to fight terror. "We don't feel that the Palestinian Authority takes the measures they can take against terror, Hamas, and the Islamic Jihad," he said.

It is too early to tell whether this round of arrests will actually lead to the apprehension of

those responsible for Shichman's killing and, if it does, whether Arafat will follow through and extradite the suspects to Israel, but the portents for such developments are disappointing.

Israel's official representatives on the Joint Security Command last week formally requested the extradition of the killers of Shlomo Kapah and Gil Revah, who were brutally murdered last month at a Ramle building site - a terrorist killing Arafat described as resulting from a labor dispute. Israel has given the Palestinian Police the names of the five men from Rafiah suspected of the murder, but nothing has yet been done.

If Arafat wants to convince Israelis that he is a partner for peace, as Rabin still calls him, then he has to overcome the political difficulties facing him in Gaza and assert his authority over the Islamic fundamentalists there. Cracking down in the Islamic Jihad, which is supported by only a small minority of Gazans, should be easier for Arafat than bringing the Hamas to heel. But it will take more than belated arrests to convince Israelis that Arafat is ready to live up to his responsibilities.

Papal fallibility

THE people of Sarajevo have been bitterly upset by the cancellation of the visit by Pope John Paul II. Preparations for such a visit are always extensive, and no more so than in a besieged city. The disappointment of the thousands of children rehearsing their hearts out for the welcoming ceremonies was palpable. But the trip should never have been planned in the first place.

The only reason for such a trip by a major international figure with the moral stature of the pope should be to improve the situation on the ground for the people of the war zone. While no one questions the pontiff's personal idealism and pain over the suffering in Yugoslavia, he should have been more firmly advised by Vatican and foreign diplomats against announcing such a trip at this juncture.

Whatever his own intentions, the combatants in Bosnia are reading the worst of diplomatic messages into the pope's solitary trip to Zagreb. It conveniently feeds the Serbian propaganda line that the Vatican is taking sides with Croatian Catholics in the religious-ethnic conflict - the whole basis of the Bosnian war. Facts and truth have little influence in such a conflict - it is prejudices and perceptions that count. In this arena, the memories of Croatian fascism in World War II and alleged Catholic collaboration with it are vividly alive and, like all the Balkan hatreds, have been fueled and fanned by a vicious war. The historical fact that only a minority of priests were fascists has long been lost.

The Serbian warning that the time was "not ripe" for a visit to Belgrade should have been heeded in the Vatican. It was only a short step from that relatively polite rebuttal to the embarrassing refusal of the Serbs to cooperate in guaranteeing security for the pope's visit to Sarajevo. If all the parties could not be persuaded to host the pontiff and take advantage of his attempts at reconciliation, then the time certainly was not right. If the Serbs could not guarantee to silence their snipers and gunners, then it would have taken only one death during the pope's visit to turn the trip into a diplomatic disaster. And, of course, any attack on the pope himself could only have led to a nightmare of ferocious reprisals and recriminations.

It was clear that the risk of any dangerous incidents would have to lead to the visit being called off. It was equally clear from the day the trip was announced that such a risk could not be

eliminated. The Serbian contention that the pope could be an important target for any faction that wanted to discredit the Serbs was not unduly paranoid in the Bosnian situation, any more than were the fears that some Serbian fanatic could target him.

It is quite hard to see what benefit the papal visit was supposed to bring the long-suffering people of Bosnia - beyond further international attention, of which they have already grown cynical. The blame for the planning of it is being laid on the doorstep of a small but very influential Catholic lobby group which assured the Vatican in February that Croats, Serbs and Moslems would all welcome and support a papal visit. This was arrant nonsense, but Vatican diplomats fell for it. The Serbian secular leadership may indeed have been willing to accommodate such a visit, but the organizers overlooked the immense power of the Serbian Orthodox Church to change their minds.

The Orthodox Serbs have been on the fault line of the great schism between Eastern and Western Christianity for centuries. They also suffered the brunt of imperial Ottoman oppression which has underpinned Orthodox prejudices against Moslems. The combatants in Bosnia are already raking in political capital from the Vatican fiasco. Croats, who should know better, have ignored the pope's own declaration that his trip is pastoral. President Franjo Tudjman yesterday said it signals Vatican support for Croatia's struggle against the Serbs. It is not a line the Serbs are likely to disagree with, given the glee with which Metropolitan Bishop Vasilije, of the Serbian Orthodox Church's Holy Synod, greeted the cancellation of the Sarajevo leg.

One unfortunate aspect of the cancellation has been that, had security been guaranteed for the pope in Sarajevo, it might have pushed the international community to demilitarize the city. All the cancellation demonstrates is how vulnerable Sarajevo's population remains, and how feeble is the United Nations pretense of being in control of a 20-km exclusion zone. But this glaring lesson will be forgotten in the diplomatic fuss and strident propaganda surrounding the whole papal affair. If he cannot visit Belgrade or Sarajevo as a respected neutral religious leader, the pope should immediately cancel his trip to Zagreb before more damage is done. Many fools have rushed into Bosnia, but it is a place where popes and angels alike should still fear to tread.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEATH ON THE ROADS

Sir, - Isn't it time that the Road Safety Administration stop passing the buck in referring to the deaths and casualties on our roads in the past year? Placing the blame of accidents on children because they fail to use the pedestrian crossing is just another way of saying that motorists are not responsible.

Actually the motorist is not totally to blame either as long as the traffic authorities drag their feet over the issue of reducing nationwide the speed limit to 30 kph in hazardous areas. Why was it such an easy decision to raise the speed limit on the fast roads last November and such a difficult one to reduce it in the towns? How many more lives will be lost before these decision-makers realize that organizing a mass of volunteers for the first few days of the new school year is not the answer to legislation?

Netanya. SYLVIA WEINER

Sir, - I refer to your article of August 31, "A renegade Jewish history researcher takes on the establishment." It seems that Mr. Myers has been spending too much time in libraries researching "great scholars" such as Gerson Cohen, dealing with "The Blessing of Assimilation," and not enough in soul searching.

Coming from Los Angeles myself, I can tell you one need not venture far to see the "blessings" of assimilation and its impact on the family, community and future of the Jewish people. I have one sister and three cousins, none of whom fall into the category of self-denying or self-hating Jew, but nevertheless have little interest in becoming practicing Jews or even marrying Jewish partners. Are these the assimilationists who have been a vital part of our cultural survival? Their children will most probably

have little or no Jewish education and their only Jewish identity will be that they have an uncle in Israel. What a blessing!

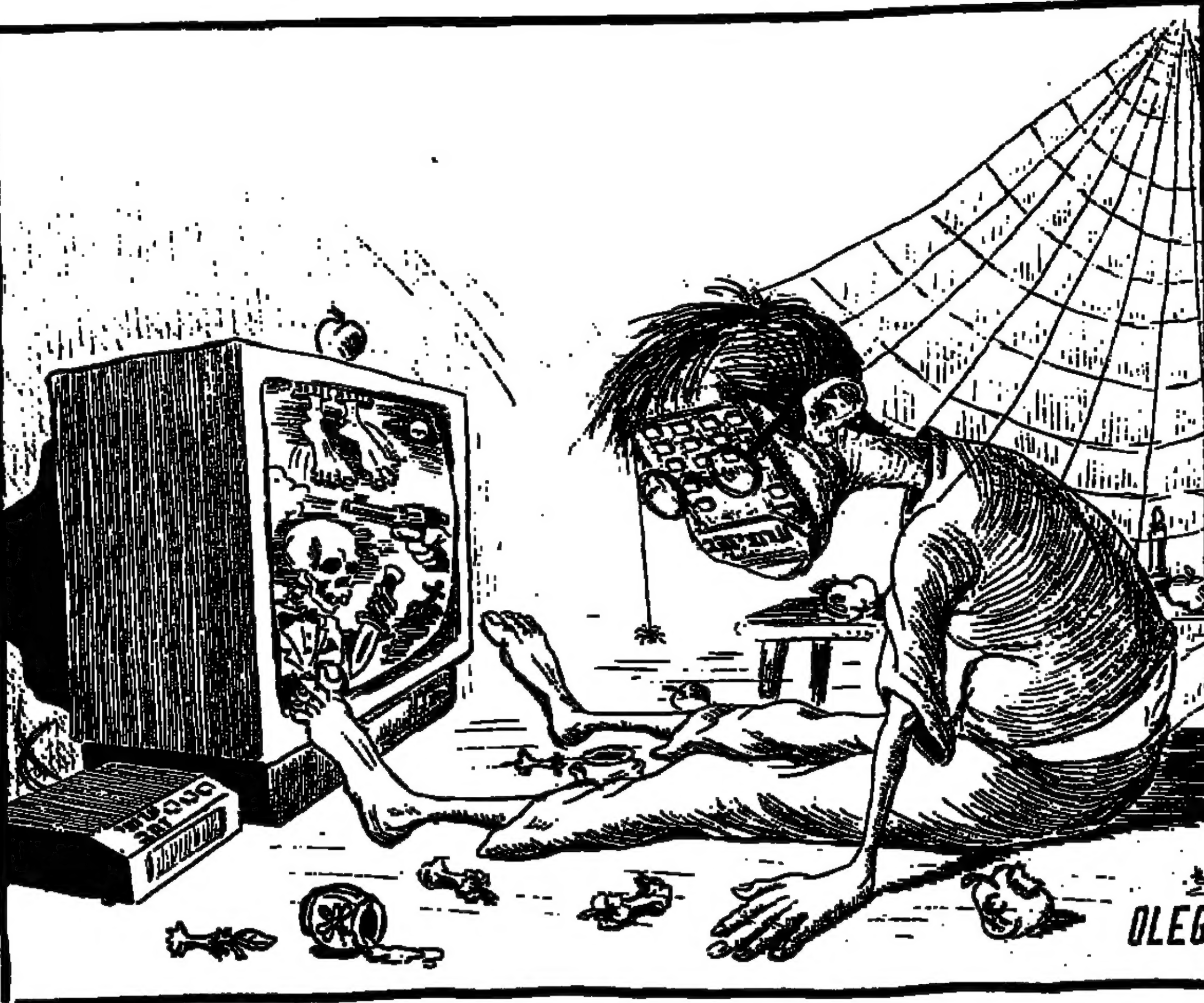
Mr. Myers should take note that generally speaking, people who assimilate do so because of a lack of Jewish identity, not because of it. And they certainly don't seem even remotely qualified to spread understanding to their surrounding cultures.

JOHNATHAN STAV
Petah Tikva.

Correction
The letter "Museum of terrorism," which appeared on Monday, was written by Arthur Freeman, Toronto.

SOME BLESSING

Continues Wurtman: "An 80-page book issued to visitors at Da-



Biggest lie of them all

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

CROSSES, churches, convents, chapels and other Christian symbols are sprouting over the sites of Nazi concentration and death camps all over Europe.

In Sobibor, Poland, for instance, where 250,000 Jews were slaughtered, there is nothing to tell the world that the murdered men, women, children and babies were Jews. Following an uprising by some of the prisoners, the Nazis destroyed the camp and plowed it up in a bid to hide the evidence of their genocide.

Poland's postwar communist regime built a universal mother-and-child memorial at the camp. Now the church has taken over the job of masking the fact that virtually only Jews died at Sobibor. It has built a Catholic house of worship on the ground stained with the tears and blood of the victims - even though the nearby village has its own church.

As a recent visitor put it: "The cross at the heart of Sobibor perpetuates the Nazi lie. It desecrates the identity of the victims as well as their memory and faith as Jews."

In Dachau, over a dozen Christian crosses and places of worship dominate the skyline. One is the Carmelite Convent of Holy Blood built in the framework of a watchtower, where nuns pray for the sins of the victims murdered at Dachau (including prayers for the souls of Jews for being Jewish when shot).

There is no sign to explain that most of the blood spilled there was Jewish blood. A huge bell rings out several times a day in memory of Austrian priests who died at Dachau.

"Surely this is a place where the dead should be allowed to rest in silence and peace," says Jerusalem resident Elie Wurtman, who visited recently. "Christians died here too. Yet of its 140,000 inmates, 121,000 were Jews who were either shot on the spot or sent to Auschwitz to be gassed."

"There is one cross in particular, in the center of Dachau. It dominates the entire site. At the wall where victims were shot stands the Catholic Agony of Christ Chapel. Close by is the Protestant Reconciliation Church. There are regular services there every Sunday at 11 a.m."

"How can they sing and pray in this place of Hell?" Wurtman asks. "The only indication that Jews died here is a single memorial decorated with a menorah but no Star of David, tucked away on the right."

Continues Wurtman: "An 80-page book issued to visitors at Da-

chau has six photographs of crosses, churches, priests, nuns, convents, etc., but nothing of the faith of Judaism. The very word 'Jew' is hardly mentioned, except for one prayer calling for the end of hatred between Jews and Arabs. The impression a visitor gets is that nuns and priests were present in the camps as protectors."

Priests and nuns do their thing at Dachau, betraying the Jews slaughtered there

Adds Chicago resident Jack Reich, who went back recently after 50 years: "There were no bishops or nuns praying with their crosses for my loved ones when we were being humiliated, starved and murdered. This is nothing less than the spiritual desecration of what was predominantly a slaughterhouse for Jews."

"If the Vatican really cared about the Holocaust, it could have done something at the time. It doesn't help me to know that they are praying for my family now. All I feel here is the distress of the tormented souls of my parents, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts and cousins, as well as the other Jews tortured and murdered here."

"There is an attempt here to betray them, to hide the fact that they were Jews. It's shameful. These churches have no place here. It's a cemetery. My dead family, like the others who died with them, should be respected and honored by being left in peace."

THE SAME attempt to hide the enormity of the Nazi genocide is seen at Birkenau, part of the Auschwitz complex where 1,100,000 Jews perished. The Polish bishops have taken the building where the Nazi commandant of Birkenau lived and issued his daily orders to send men, women, children and babies to the gas chambers, and converted it into yet another church.

Wurtman also visited Birkenau. He said: "There are two crosses at the church here. They dominate what must be the largest Jewish cemetery of all time. This is deliberate, blatant religious revision-

ism. It is Christianization of the Holocaust, an attempt by elements in the Vatican to cover up their guilt at doing nothing to try and stop it."

Says historian and biographer Martin Gilbert: "What the Catholic Church is doing is scandalous and grotesque."

"Only a few months ago, I was at Theresienstadt ghetto, where I serve on an international committee creating a museum devoted to the memory of the victims. These sincere people are trying to show the world a true picture of the dreadful things that happened in this ghetto. Of the 140,000 human beings who were imprisoned there, 123,500 were Jews who were either killed on the site or sent to die at Auschwitz."

"I intend protesting the way a cross has now been raised there. I am going to ask the World Jewish Congress or Yad Vashem and others to demand that the internationally recognized 1917 Treaty of Lausanne be applied immediately to the Nazi concentration and death camps too."

"This treaty was accepted by Moslem and Christian countries, which agreed without question that cemeteries of those who died in war in any country must be honored and put in the care solely of the families of the dead. It created a precedent which still applies today internationally."

"For instance," Gilbert says, "there are 2,500 cemeteries of British soldiers in France and Flanders, which are considered British property. Only their families or descendants have the right to put up monuments or grave-stones or symbols of their faith there."

"There are cemeteries in Israel of British dead which are considered forever as belonging to their relatives. The British pay and care for these graves. No Israeli government would dream of putting up a synagogue at the British war cemetery on Mount Scopus."

"A cemetery is a holy place for many people. We must all respect that - Jew, Christian or Moslem. It's our duty to do so. For the dead cannot speak for themselves."

Says Avi Bekor, executive director of the World Jewish Congress in Israel: "We have been deeply troubled by the attempt to Christianize the Holocaust. We will raise the matter at our next meeting in Mexico, and will certainly consider the views of Mr. Martin Gilbert on the subject."

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

The American way

LOUIS RENE BERES

FOLLOWING the imaginative lead of the US in its handling of North Korea's nuclear threat, Jerusalem should make large financial and technical contributions to Tehran's nuclear program.

Israel should understand that a demonstration of military power against Iran would be counterproductive and that appeasement represents the only sure way to safety.

After all, when the best and the brightest in Washington devise America's nonproliferation policy, shouldn't Jerusalem sit up and take notice? It is time to acknowledge that protection rackets operate on a global level, and that paying off the collector is a sensible way to go.

At this moment, Iran continues to move at a dizzying pace in constructing a complete nuclear arsenal, an inventory of catastrophic weapons intended primarily to overwhelm and destroy Israel.

Facing this existential threat to the Third Temple, Jerusalem has several different options. It can choose to do nothing, waiting for widely scattered Iranian deployments and for the effective end to

How to denuclearize Iran? Israel can learn a lesson from the US's deal with Korea

Israeli opportunities for anticipatory self-defense.

It can prepare to undertake timely preemptions against Iranian nuclear assets, selective strikes against pertinent hard targets that would generate minimal loss of human life and would preclude later Iranian nuclear attacks against Israeli population centers.

Or it can cooperate with Iran, accepting that country's prospective promise (a promise not yet offered) not to proceed with nuclearization in exchange for Israeli assistance with Iran's peaceful nuclear purposes.

To bring about the third option, which contains all of the obvious merits and refinements of US strategic thought, Israel could levy a special tax upon all Israelis, allowing the entire citizenry to make essential contributions to Israel's new Islamic friends.

Indeed, following its own special expertise in such matters, the US government could add several billion dollars to the bribe, a sweetener that would certainly make Iran change course and give Israelis needed peace of mind.

WHY SHOULDN'T this third option be the best one for Jerusalem?

Even though Iran, like North Korea, will not have to submit to any seriously intrusive inspections or checks on its conformance with agreed-upon procedures, we may assume that the leadership in Tehran will act honestly and in complete good faith in its pledges to a country it has sworn to annihilate.

In the absence of such an assumption, Israel would have to take exceedingly unpleasant actions in the short run. Wouldn't it be far better, following the American lead, to trade off long-term physical survival for short-term political benefit?

As an added incentive, such a trade-off would be especially rational for Israel today, as Jerusalem has already embarked fully upon a policy of capitulation and bribes in its dealings with the PLO. By paying off Iran, therefore, Israel would not only be acting in dutiful mimicry of American wisdom, it would also be acting consistently with its other already implemented policies for national security.

In the agreements being worked out between the US, North Korea and South Korea, when the North guarantees the "transparency of its nuclear activities," Seoul will support North Korea's development of the "peaceful use of nuclear energy."

Such support will take the form of modern nuclear power plants costing about \$4 billion. The guarantee of "transparency" is to be ensured by Pyongyang's "pledge" to abandon activities that might produce nuclear weapons and to remain a party to the Nonproliferation Treaty.

What more could anyone ask for? Surely this Korean solution, reflecting the US State Department's particular genius for making foreign policy, is tailor made for resolving Israel's nuclear concerns about Iran. Or am I perhaps missing something important?

The writer is the author of 14 books dealing with issues of nuclear strategy and nuclear war, including *Apocalypse: Nuclear Catastrophe in World Politics and Security or Armageddon: Israel's Nuclear Strategy*.



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The Jerusalem Post
Thursday, September 8, 1994
BUSINESS & FINANCE
9

Key Representative Rates

	Change
US dollar ...NIS 3.0240	-0.16%
Sterling ...NIS 4.6774	-0.06%
Mark ...NIS 1.9436	+1.77%

New York market indexes

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	8928.38	+12.45
DJ 30	8928.38	+12.45
S&P 500	8928.38	+12.45
NASDAQ	2029.84	+12.45
NYSE	2029.84	+12.45
AMEX	2029.84	+12.45

Other stock market indexes

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3007.00	+1.8
Hong Kong Hang Seng	10168.8	+128.5
Nikkei 225	11515.0	+41.5

Israeli stocks in NY

	Last	Change
Bank Leumi	47.00	+0.125
Bank Hapoalim	47.00	+0.125
Bank Mizrahi	47.00	+0.125
Bank Leumi	47.00	+0.125
Bank Hapoalim	47.00	+0.125
Bank Mizrahi	47.00	+0.125

LIBOR rates

	Last	Change
3 month	5.3150	-0.0005
6 month	5.3150	-0.0005
9 month	5.3150	-0.0005
12 month	5.3150	-0.0005

Foreign financial data courtesy of

	Last	Change
US dollar	3.0240	-0.16%
Sterling	4.6774	-0.06%
Mark	1.9436	+1.77%

US commodities

	Last	Change
Crude oil	20.45	+0.15
Gold	380.25	+0.25
Silver	5.51	+0.05

London commodities

	Last	Change
Crude oil	20.45	+0.15
Gold	380.25	+0.25
Silver	5.51	+0.05

Spot market metals (US)

	Last	Change
Gold	380.25	+0.25
Silver	5.51	+0.05
Copper	1.9436	+1.77%

New York metal futures

	Last	Change
Gold	380.25	+0.25
Silver	5.51	+0.05
Copper	1.9436	+1.77%

Major: Schedule for Maastricht not realistic

BONN (Reuters) - British Prime Minister John Major said yesterday that Europe is not yet ready for a single currency, and it was an open question when the performance of economies would converge closely enough to make monetary union possible.

Oil prices firm as traders take long-term view

LONDON (Reuters) - Oil prices firmed yesterday as the two-month Nigerian strike faded from traders' minds and attention shifted to supply and demand in the fourth quarter.

World benchmark Brent Blend crude oil futures for October delivery reached a high of \$16.51 a barrel, up 18 cents on the day.

Probe of St. Gobain chairman sends traders into a frenzy

PARIS (Reuters) - A judicial probe into the head of French industrial giant Saint-Gobain sent traders into a frenzy yesterday and revived talk among investors and media on the level of corruption in the country.

Shares in the leading glass and building materials group recovered slightly after losing 4.2 percent on Tuesday, when investigating magistrate Renaud van Ruynebecke questioned chairman Jean-Louis Beffa and placed him under investigation in a case involving suspected illicit funding of a political party.

The stock was by far the most actively traded on the bourse yesterday as it recovered more than one percent of its value to close FR 7 higher at FR 645.

Analysts played down any impact on Saint-Gobain's business of the inquiry, which revolves round a sum of FR 4.4 million (\$827,700) paid to a businessman for arranging a water supply contract for Saint-Gobain subsidiary Pont-a-Mousson with the city of Nantes.

The businessman, Rene Trager, said he passed the cash to the Republican party - part of the ruling center-right coalition.

"There is no financial impact for Saint-Gobain," stock analyst Jean-Hugues de Lamaze said.

But he warned that in the near-term investors were likely to remain cautious and noted the persistent weakness of shares in public works companies, notably Cie Generale des Eaux and Lyonnaise des Eaux, following talk in the French media of alleged corruption in the awarding of local authority contracts.

In an unrelated case, shares in electrical engineer Alcatel Alsthom, France's biggest industrial company, have suffered over



Saint-Gobain chairman Jean-Louis Beffa is under investigation in a case involving suspected illicit funding of a political party (AP)

allegations in an inquiry into alleged over-charging. The stock took a pummeling in July, when chairman Pierre Suard was held for questioning and placed under investigation.

And shares in engineer Schneider suffered when a Belgian judge locked up its chairman, Didier Pineau-Valencienne, for 11

days while looking into two of Schneider's Belgian subsidiaries.

Ken Rumph, an analyst at UBS, said the Saint-Gobain inquiry was "not a big issue", noting that the company is not heavily involved in winning contracts from official bodies in France.

But a misguided perception abroad that France was starting the sort of massive anti-corruption drive seen in Italy's "mani pulite" (clean hands) movement could damage foreign investors' view of the whole French corporate sector, Rumph said.

"The judges have gone too far; there's no going back on it now," as financial daily *La Tribune Des-fosses* said of the Beffa affair in a leading article. "It's not 'mani pulite', but seen from abroad, it looks like it."

Yet, Rumph said, any investor who shunned public works firms on the grounds that a subsidiary might have gone too far in winning official backing for a contract, would face a thin time.

"They'd end up shying away from an awful lot of companies in Europe," Rumph said.

La Tribune, while criticizing the spectacular doings of examining magistrates, called for a review of the way public contracts were awarded and funded to clear the air.

Business Minister Alain Madelin, a leading member of the Republican party, said his party also wanted things cleared up.

But he told France Inter radio: "One must nonetheless maintain some form of secrecy while investigations are still going on as... they can leave a stain on great French companies."

Hilton's Belfast project a boost for economy

BELFAST (Reuters) - Hilton International announced yesterday it would build a 187-room luxury hotel in the center of Belfast, showing that an IRA cease-fire had boosted confidence in the economic future of Northern Ireland.

Although negotiations for the hotel were under way long before last week's ceasefire, officials said the timing of the decision showed confidence in the city's potential.

The luxury hotel will cost £17 million, said Hilton, a subsidiary of Britain's Ladbroke Group. Its partner in the project will be Belfast-based Ewart Plc.

High Smythe, Belfast's Lord Mayor, told a news conference the new hotel sparked bright hopes for the future and was an important vote of confidence in the city.

"Today's announcement is a major boost to our city and is to be welcomed by all," Smyth said.

FTSE Index closes lower

LONDON (Reuters) - Shares closed just below Tuesday's closing prices after another session dominated by bonds and the FTSE index futures.

"The funds have all got money, but they're picking and choosing their stocks and their times," one trader said.

The FTSE Index ended at the day's low, down 1.5 points at 3,203.9.

FRANKFURT - German share prices finished official trade with narrow losses, but bounced back from the day's lows.

Dealers said the bourse was very dependent on movements in the bond market. The DAX-30 Index closed down 2.08 points at 2,163.82, but rose to 2,167.68 in post-bourse trade.

PARIS - French shares ended hardly changed after a seesaw day which started with gains of one percent in a technical reaction to losses earlier in the week. But weak bond futures kept share prices on the ropes.

The CAC-40 Index closed up 2.75 at 1,964.20.

ZURICH - Swiss shares closed higher in active trade and dealers said the market had a potential to move higher. They said foreign buying supported the market.

Swiss investors were more cautious and in some cases preferred to take profits when there was opportunity.

The broad SPI closed up 6.31 at 1,757.39.

TOKYO - Bearish sentiment caused mainly by disappointment over the performance of shares in newly listed Japan Telecom pulled down Tokyo prices sharply, and the key Nikkei-225 average closed slightly above the key 20,000 level, down 370.18 points at 20,023.88, a four-month low.

HONG KONG - Stocks closed stronger on continued fund buying but profit-taking dragged them off highs. The Hang Seng Index rose 129.90 points to finish the day at 10,165.87, having been ahead by 194 points.

SYDNEY - Australian shares closed a touch firmer on good volume. Dealers said the market focus wavered between a weaker bond market and the large number of major company results released today.

The All Ordinaries Index closed 0.8 points higher at 2104.4.

JOHANNESBURG - Gold shares ended generally firmer on Wednesday as initial profit-taking was countered by gold price gains. Industrialists drifted around overnight levels before posting mild gains towards the close.

The overall index ended up 45 points at 6,054, industrial index up 18 at 6,680 and gold index up 33 at 2,535.

Stocks end mostly lower

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks ended mostly lower yesterday as bond prices tumbled, although technology issues moved higher amid optimism about corporate earnings.

Bonds had little reason to rally, ahead of Friday's scheduled release of August inflation data, analysts said.

Inflation worries have hit the stock and bond markets since Friday's employment report, which showed strong growth in the manufacturing sector.

Bond investors don't like inflation, which erodes the value of fixed-income securities such as bonds. Lower bond prices mean higher credit market interest rates, which move in the opposite direction.

Stock investors worry about inflation in part because it increases the likelihood the Federal Reserve will step in for a sixth time this year to nudge interest rates higher. Higher rates make shares less attractive relative to interest-bearing investments and increase the cost of money to companies.

The Nasdaq composite index, meanwhile, rose 4.62 to 764.10 and at the American Stock Exchange, the market value index fell 0.68 to 455.32.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFR	FFr
MARK	2.384/88	153.67/79	2.0031/53	8.2064/67
STERLING	1.5573/90	0.6502/08	1.3029/46	5.3378/55
YEN	1.1943/00	0.4867/92	76.69/73	4.0837/07
SFR	0.2915/10	0.1217/19	18.70/75	0.2438/43

Source: Comstock Trading Ltd.

Aussies upset Pakistan

COLOMBO (Reuters) - Australia produced clinically efficient off-spinners to pull off a remarkable 29-run victory over favorites Pakistan in the second match of a four-nation limited overs series yesterday.

Fielding splendidly, and with leg-spinner Shane Warne (3-29) and all-rounder Steve Waugh (3-16) taking the major bowling honors, Australia defended its modest 50 overs total of 179 for seven, magnificently.

Australia, led by new captain Mark Taylor in the opening game of a two-month tour, restricted World Cup holders Pakistan to 151 for nine in their 50 overs.

The turning point for Pakistan came in the 25th over when opener Saeed Anwar, who was batting with great freedom, was forced to retire hurt with a hamstring injury to his right leg.

Pakistan at that stage was 80 for two, with Anwar seven short of his half-century after having hit off-spinner Tim May for a six and a four in one over.

When Anwar returned to resume his innings with a runner, Pakistan had slumped to 124 for five in 41 overs.

Pakistan's chances rested heavily on Anwar and captain Salim Malik, but Steve Waugh's medium pace claimed both in successive deliveries during his final over to set up Australia's stunning success.

Anwar, handicapped by his injury, hardly moved his feet as he on-drove uppishly, only to be caught by Glenn McGrath at mid-wicket. He made the top score of 46 off 79 balls with one six and five fours.

Chinese women nab 6 swim titles in world c'ships

ROME (AP) - China's women set another world record and collected three more gold medals at the World Swimming Championships yesterday to take their tally to six titles in the pool.

The 400-meters freestyle relay quartet of Li Jingyi, Shan Ying, Lu Ying and Lu Bin swam 3 minutes 37.91 seconds to set 1.55 off the 2-year-old mark set by the US at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

China's He Chong won the 100 backstroke and Yang Aihua romped to victory in the 400 freestyle from unfavored lane one.

Russia won two golds and the Americans picked up three silver and two bronze medals as the three swimming superpowers dominated the third day's swimming.

Alex Popov scored an almost leisurely victory in the 100 freestyle and Vladimir Selkov triumphed in a championship record time in the 200 backstroke.

American silver medalists were Gary Hall, second to Popov, Cristina Teuscher, second to Yang, and the 400 freestyle relay team. Bronze medalists were Barbara Bedford in the 100 backstroke and Royce Sharp in the men's 200 backstroke.

Popov apart, however, the other world record holders in action flopped.

Janet Evans, one of the greatest long-distance freestylers of all time, placed fifth in the 400 final

and Krisztina Egerszegi, Hungary's triple Olympic gold medalist in Barcelona, also placed fifth in the 100 backstroke.

Popov, however, produced a masterful 100 freestyle performance.

The man who broke Matt Biondi's world mark at Monte Carlo in June cruised to victory after turning second to Hall in 23.48.

It was almost like Biondi himself as the Russian's slow, seemingly effortless stroke with far less splash than his rivals enabled him to slice through the water apparently with ease.

The others chased desperately but got nowhere near at the final touch. Popov clocked 49.12, still better than anyone else this year but well outside the world mark of 48.21 he set at Monte Carlo.

Hall touched in 49.41, almost a second slower than Biondi's best, and third place Brazilian Gustavo Borges, Olympic silver medalist, was third in 49.52.

Another American, Jon Olsen, who was slowest of the eight qualifiers, placed fourth in 49.90.

Also yesterday, Israel's Yoav Bruck finished seventh in heat No. 9 of the men's 100m freestyle with a time of 50.81. He failed to qualify for the final.

Israel's second entry, Alexei Bazarov, also failed to advance, finishing fifth in heat No. 6 of the 100m freestyle with a time of 1:03.50.

Sampras upset; Graf reaches semis

NEW YORK (AP) - So exhausted he was close to passing out on court, two-time US Open champion Pete Sampras stumbled out in the fourth round Tuesday against Jaime Yzaga.

Sampras had a blister the size of a quarter on his big right toe that caused him pain, but it was sheer fatigue that slowed him to a crawl in a 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(7-5), 7-5 loss.

"He hit the wall," Dr. David Cooper said of Sampras' utter exhaustion.

Sampras was idled for six weeks because of an ankle injury going into the Open, and his lack of conditioning showed.

"You need to play matches, and you can't get that on an exercise bike," said Sampras' coach, Tim Gullikson. "I've never seen Pete pack it in and I can't fault his effort here today. After the third set, he looked like he was going to pass out."

It was the first time since seedings began in the US championships in 1927 that none of the top three men reached the quarters. It was also the second time Yzaga beat Sampras at the Open, knocking him out in the first round in 1988, also in five sets.

Sampras, winner of four of the last five

Grand Slams, played parts of this match as if he were slogging through mud, while Yzaga bounced around like a rubber ball.

The blister was only the latest foot problem for Sampras since he switched sneakers to a specially designed, super-duper new model for \$18 million or so, courtesy of Nike.

He sprained his right ankle at Wimbledon and developed tendinitis in his left ankle at the Davis Cup, sidelining him since mid-July until the start of the Open. A few days ago, the nail on one toe cut into another, requiring repairs on court. This time, he yanked off his sneaker and called over a trainer to apply a pad to the blister early in the fourth set.

Yzaga advanced to the quarterfinals against Karel Novacek, who beat Javier Frana 6-3, 6-3, 6-3(7-5), 6-3. Also reaching the quarters was Jonas Bjorkman, who beat Joern Renzenbrink 6-3, 6-3, 6-2, 6-7(3-7), 6-3.

Filling out the men's quarterfinals, No. 9 Todd Martin was scheduled to take on German Bernd Karbacher last night, and crowd-favorite Andre Agassi was slated to meet No. 13 Thomas Muster of Austria.

In yesterday's action, seventh-seeded Jana

Novotna defeated No. 4 Mary Pierce 6-4, 6-0 yesterday to join top-seeded Steffi Graf in the semifinals of the US Open.

Pierce, who upset Graf to reach the final of the French Open earlier this year, couldn't control her own power game, repeatedly hitting long.

"I'm very disappointed because I was looking forward to playing Steffi again," said Pierce, who has lost to Novotna both times they have met.

Instead, it is Novotna who will take on Graf, a 6-0, 6-2 winner over Amanda Coetzer in the day's first match.

Novotna, who never made it past the US Open fourth round until this year, moved Pierce from side to side and from the baseline to the net, waiting until her opponent made a mistake. And she did as Pierce committed 37 unforced errors, 15 more than Novotna.

The other women semifinalists are Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Gabriela Sabatini, both easy winners on Tuesday.

Sanchez Vicario beat Kimiko Date 6-3, 6-0, and Sabatini disposed of Gigi Fernandez 6-2, 7-5.

Italy, Denmark humbled in European soccer qualifiers

LONDON (Reuters) - Title holders Denmark and World Cup finalists Italy were held to humiliating draws in European championship qualifiers yesterday by Macedonia and Slovenia, international newcomers from old Yugoslavia.

Italy, beaten on penalties by Brazil in the World Cup final, could salvage only a 1-1 draw in Maribor against new neighbors Slovenia in one of the major shocks of the night when 12 nations made their European debuts in the qualifying series for the 1996 finals in England.

Slovenia led through a 13th-minute goal from Sasa Udovic, but Alessandro Costacurta equalized two minutes later in the group four game.

The Italians, looking lead-footed and clumsy, were fortunate to escape with a draw against inspired opponents who had a second-half effort scooped off the line.

Denmark, winners two years ago in Sweden when they were substitute entrants for the banned Yugoslavia, needed a goal three minutes from time by Flemming Povlsen to rescue a point in the Macedonian capital Skopje.

Mitko Stojkovski had put the home side ahead after four min-

utes on an historic night for the former Yugoslav state which saw their under-21 team thrash the Danes 5-3.

Norway, who knocked 10 goals past San Marino almost to the day two years ago to start its successful World Cup qualifying campaign, needed a last-gasp goal to squeeze a 1-0 home win over newcomers Belarus.

The former Soviet Union state held out in the group five encounter until substitute Geir Frigard scored an 88th minute winner as Norway suffered a taste of their own medicine against a defensively-minded side.

In another shock, Lithuania won 2-0 against fancied Ukraine in Kiev in a group four showdown between two former Soviet states.

Spain was made to struggle to take all three points away from Cyprus, with two first-half goals from Francisco Higueras enough for a 2-1 win.

Belgium also found the going tough against another of the debutants, grabbing a 2-0 home win thanks to a fourth-minute own goal from Yervand Khachian and a 73rd minute strike from Marc Degryse.

The Faroe Islands, one of two debutants in the last qualifying se-

Rishon whips Herzliya

JOEL GORDIN

HOST Maccabi Rishon LeZion wiped out a double-digit deficit to beat Bnei Herzliya 82-72 last night in second-round action of basketball's National League.

Herzliya had control through most of the first half with their sharpshooters Gilad Katz and John Hudson in sync with play-makers Koren Amisha and Rotem Ehrlich.

The second half, however, was all Rishon, and the name of their game was Gerald Paddio. The former NBA player scored 32 points including five of eight three pointers.

Rishon's second American, James Gully, was no slouch either, with 16 points and 14 rebounds. They were backed up by former Hapoel Jerusalemite Danny Gott who scored 12 points while taking over the point guard role.

For Herzliya, Katz had 21, Hudson sank 17 and Paul Thompson netted 16. The second round continues tonight.

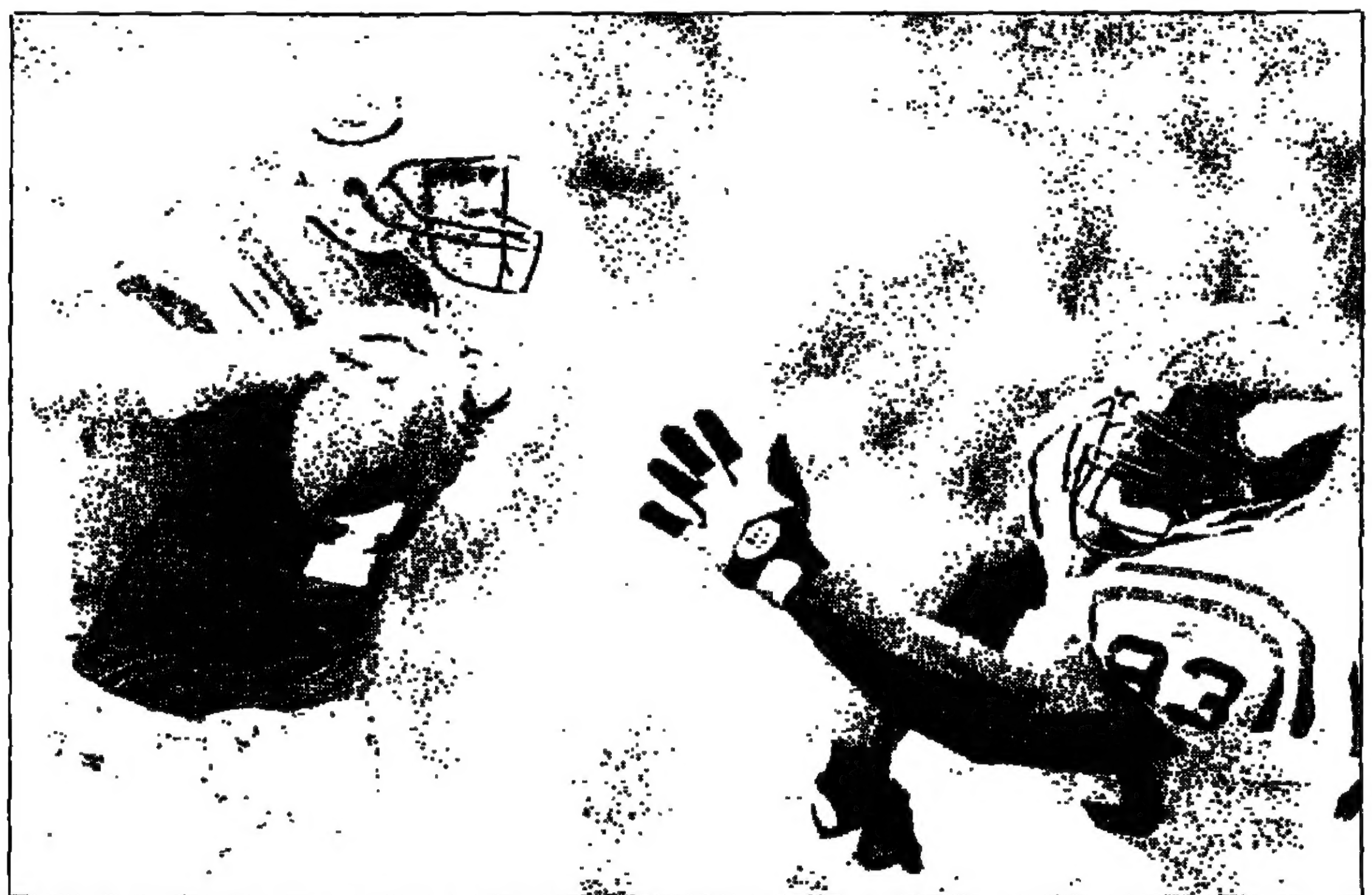
No progress in strike talks

NEW YORK (AP) - Baseball owners have heard again from the players. It's not the kind of contact likely to settle the strike, though.

On Tuesday, just three days before a deadline for canceling the season, owners received a copy of an unfair labor practice complaint filed by the players' union with the National Labor Relations Board.

The union is contesting management's failure to make a \$7.8 million payment to the players' benefit plan following the All-Star game. The money was due August 1.

Otherwise, not much is taking place. Acting commissioner Bud Selig, owners' negotiator Richard Ravitch and players' union head Donald Fehr took off most of the day to observe Rosh Hashanah.



SCRAMBLER - Green Bay Packers QB Brett Favre (1) avoids Vikings' John Randle. (AP)

49ers' Rice becomes all-time TD leader in rout of Raiders

SANTA CLARA (AP) - Jerry Rice had little time to savor the record-setting effort that made him the NFL's all-time touchdown leader.

No sooner had he scored his 127th career touchdown Monday night in San Francisco's 44-14 rout of the Los Angeles Raiders than the 49ers wide receiver was caught up again in the Joe Montana-Steve Young rivalry.

The 49ers travel to Kansas City next Sunday for their first confrontation ever with Montana. He led San Francisco to four Super Bowl wins in the 1980s before losing his job to Young and joining the Chiefs in a 1992 trade.

Montana and Rice connected on 55 touchdown passes. Young and Rice have hooked up for scores 49 times, including two against the Raiders.

The first came on a 69-yard bomb from Young. Rice then made like a running back to pull into a tie with Brown, scoring on a 23-yard reverse and set the record with 4:05 to go when he out-jumped Albert Lewis for the ball and tumbled into the end zone.

Teammates rushed to congratulate Rice, and fittingly the celebration took place in the end zone. Rice was overcome emotion.

"He was crying; he deserved to cry," running back Ricky Waters said. "He worked so hard for this. He wanted it. That's how he was able to score on that reverse. That's how he was able to go up for that last ball and get it."

Cols 45, Oilers 21

In Sunday's action, Marshall Faulk

rushed for 174 yards and scored three touchdowns in his pro debut, giving revamped Indianapolis a victory as the NFL opened its 75 season.

It was the first regular-season loss for the Oilers in 12 games.

Faulk, the second overall pick in the college draft, ran for touchdowns of 1, 2 and 11 yards and had 23 carries for 143 yards. He added one reception for 31 yards.

All six Indianapolis touchdowns were by players who joined the team since the end of last season. Linebacker Tony Bennett, a free agent from Green Bay, returned a fumble 75 yards for another touchdown, and former Bears quarterback Jim Harbaugh passed for two touchdowns to Floyd Turner, a free agent from New Orleans.

Lions 31, Falcons 28 (OT) Jason Hanson overcame a leg cramp to kick a 37-yard field goal in overtime to beat the visiting Falcons in June Jones' coaching debut for Atlanta.

Lions tied it 28-28 on a 15-yard pass from Mitchell to Anthony Carter with 30 seconds left. Hanson's kickoff dribbled to Alton Montgomery, who scooped it up and rambled 37 yards to the Atlanta 44. Norm Johnson's try on a 52-yard field goal sailed wide right as time expired.

Seahawks 28, Redskins 7 Rick Mirer led three scoring drives to give visiting Seahawks coach Tom Flores his 100th pro victory and spoil Norm Turner's debut with the Redskins. Mirer completed 17 of 28 passes for 183 yards and one touchdown, and Chris Warren rushed for 100 yards and scored two touchdowns.

Chiefs 30, Saints 17 Joe Montana improved to 10-0 in the New Orleans Superdome, throwing two touchdowns and completing 24 of 33 for 315 yards.

Kansas City totally dominated the first half, with two touchdowns and a field goal on its first three possessions. The Chiefs had the ball for 18:16 and outscored New Orleans 36 yards to 16. Jim Everett, making his first regular-season start with the Saints, completed 26 of 37 passes for 325 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions.

Packers 16, Vikings 10 Sterling Sharpe returned a day after threatening a walkout and caught a 14-yard touchdown pass for host Green

Bay, who agreed to adjust his contract. Sharpe caught seven passes for a game-high 53 yards, including the toss from Brett Favre that gave Green Bay a 10-0 lead in the second quarter.

Packers safety George Teague intercepted two of Warren Moon's passes, spoiling his debut with the Vikings at Lambeau Field.

Giants 28, Eagles 23 Dave Meggett returned a punt 68 yards for a touchdown, ran 26 yards for another and recovered a fumble to set up another as host New York capitalized on early errors by the Eagles. The Eagles never got closer than the final margin when Randall Cunningham - 20 of 39 for 344 yards - hit Calvin Williams on a 10-yard touchdown pass with 1:17 to play.

Dolphins 39, Patriots 35 Dan Marino threw five touchdown passes, including three to Irving Fryar and the 300th of his career.

It was the sixth time that Marino, playing his first game since injuring his Achilles' tendon last season, has thrown five or more touchdown passes in a game and the first time since November 27th, 1988.

Marino completed 23 of his 42 passes for 473 yards and one interception. Fryar caught five balls for a career-best 211 yards. Both yardage performances were the second-best opening-day efforts in NFL history.

Cowboys 26, Steelers 9 Emmitt Smith rushed for 171 yards and one TD on 31 carries and tight end Chris Boniol kicked four field goals to lead host Dallas to victory in the head coaching debut of Barry Switzer.

Dallas' Troy Aikman completed 21-of-32 passes for 245 yards and one touchdown.

Michael Irvin had eight receptions for 139 yards.

Jets 23, Bills 3 Nick Lowery kicked three field goals as visiting New York held Thurman Thomas to five yards on seven carries.

It was only New York's second win in the last 14 meetings against Buffalo and marked the successful regular season debut of New York head coach Pete Carroll.

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